

ESSB 5084 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Higher Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

4 (a) The majority of foster youth fail to thrive in our educational
5 system and, relative to nonfoster youth, disproportionately few enroll
6 in college or other postsecondary training programs. As a result,
7 former foster youth generally have poor employment and life
8 satisfaction outcomes;

9 (b) Low expectations, lack of information, fragmented support
10 services, and financial hardship are the most frequently cited reasons
11 for failure of foster youth to pursue postsecondary education or
12 training. Initiatives have been undertaken at both the state and
13 community levels in Washington to improve outcomes for foster youth in
14 transition to independence; however, these initiatives are often not
15 coordinated to complement one another;

16 (c) Even after they reach the age of eighteen, nonfoster youth
17 often receive financial support from their families to pursue
18 postsecondary education or training. Although the state is the legal
19 guardian for those foster youth who have not been reunited with their
20 families, adopted, or placed into guardianship, after these youth reach
21 the age of eighteen, the state does not consistently provide financial
22 support so that they may pursue postsecondary education or training.

23 (2) The legislature intends to encourage and support foster youth
24 to pursue postsecondary education or training opportunities. A
25 coordination committee that provides statewide planning and oversight
26 of related efforts will improve the effectiveness of both current and
27 future initiatives to improve postsecondary educational outcomes for
28 foster youth. In addition, the state can provide financial support to
29 former foster youth pursuing higher education or training by setting

1 aside portions of the state need grant and the state work study
2 programs specifically for foster youth.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.13.570 and 2003 c 112 s 4 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) The department shall establish an oversight committee composed
6 of staff from the children's administration of the department, the
7 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the higher
8 education coordinating board, foster youth, former foster youth, foster
9 parents, and advocacy agencies to develop strategies for maintaining
10 foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they
11 entered foster care and to promote opportunities for foster youth to
12 participate in postsecondary education or training.

13 (2) The duties of the oversight committee shall include, but are
14 not limited to:

15 (a) Developing strategies for school-based recruitment of foster
16 homes;

17 (b) Monitoring the progress of current pilot projects that assist
18 foster children to continue attending the schools they were attending
19 at the time they entered foster care;

20 (c) Overseeing the expansion of the number of pilot projects;

21 (d) Promoting the use of best practices, throughout the state,
22 demonstrated by the pilot projects and other programs relating to
23 maintaining foster children in the schools they were attending at the
24 time they entered foster care; ~~((and))~~

25 (e) Informing the legislature of the status of efforts to maintain
26 foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they
27 entered foster care;

28 (f) Assessing the scope and nature of statewide need among current
29 and former foster youth for assistance to pursue and participate in
30 postsecondary education or training opportunities;

31 (g) Identifying available sources of funding available in the state
32 for services to former foster youth to pursue and participate in
33 postsecondary education or training opportunities;

34 (h) Reviewing the effectiveness of activities in the state to
35 support former foster youth to pursue and participate in postsecondary
36 education or training opportunities;

- 1 (i) Identifying new activities, or existing activities that should
2 be modified or expanded, to best meet statewide needs; and
3 (j) Reviewing on an ongoing basis the progress toward improving
4 educational and vocational outcomes for foster youth.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.92.060 and 2004 c 275 s 37 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 In awarding need grants, the board shall proceed substantially as
8 follows: PROVIDED, That nothing contained herein shall be construed to
9 prevent the board, in the exercise of its sound discretion, from
10 following another procedure when the best interest of the program so
11 dictates:

12 (1) The board shall annually select the financial aid award
13 recipients from among Washington residents applying for student
14 financial aid who have been ranked according to:

15 (a) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family
16 contribution; and

17 (b) Other considerations ((brought to the board's attention)), such
18 as whether the student is a former foster youth.

19 (2) The financial need of the highest ranked students shall be met
20 by grants depending upon the evaluation of financial need until the
21 total allocation has been disbursed. Funds from grants which are
22 declined, forfeited or otherwise unused shall be reawarded until
23 ((dispersed)) disbursed, except that eligible former foster youth shall
24 be assured receipt of a grant.

25 (3) A student shall be eligible to receive a state need grant for
26 up to five years, or the credit or clock hour equivalent of five years,
27 or up to one hundred twenty-five percent of the published length of
28 time of the student's program. A student may not start a new associate
29 degree program as a state need grant recipient until at least five
30 years have elapsed since earning an associate degree as a need grant
31 recipient, except that a student may earn two associate degrees
32 concurrently. Qualifications for renewal will include maintaining
33 satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an eligible program
34 as determined by the board. Should the recipient terminate his or her
35 enrollment for any reason during the academic year, the unused portion
36 of the grant shall be returned to the state educational grant fund by

1 the institution according to the institution's own policy for issuing
2 refunds, except as provided in RCW 28B.92.070.

3 (4) In computing financial need, the board shall determine a
4 maximum student expense budget allowance, not to exceed an amount equal
5 to the total maximum student expense budget at the public institutions
6 plus the current average state appropriation per student for operating
7 expense in the public institutions.

8 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2004 c 275 s 35 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 As used in this chapter:

11 (1) "Institution or institutions of higher education" means:

12 (a) Any public university, college, community college, or technical
13 college operated by the state of Washington or any political
14 subdivision thereof; or

15 (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the
16 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level
17 which is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized
18 by rule of the board for the purposes of this section: PROVIDED, That
19 any institution, branch, extension or facility operating within the
20 state of Washington which is affiliated with an institution operating
21 in another state must be a separately accredited member institution of
22 any such accrediting association, or a branch of a member institution
23 of an accrediting association recognized by rule of the board for
24 purposes of this section, that is eligible for federal student
25 financial aid assistance and has operated as a nonprofit college or
26 university delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of
27 twenty consecutive years within the state of Washington, and has an
28 annual enrollment of at least seven hundred full-time equivalent
29 students: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no institution of higher education
30 shall be eligible to participate in a student financial aid program
31 unless it agrees to and complies with program rules and regulations
32 adopted pursuant to RCW 28B.92.150.

33 (2) "Financial aid" means loans and/or grants to needy students
34 enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a student at institutions of
35 higher education.

36 (3) "Needy student" means a post high school student of an
37 institution of higher education who demonstrates to the board the

1 financial inability, either through the student's parents, family
2 and/or personally, to meet the total cost of board, room, books, and
3 tuition and incidental fees for any semester or quarter.

4 (4) "Disadvantaged student" means a post high school student who by
5 reason of adverse cultural, educational, environmental, experiential,
6 familial or other circumstances is unable to qualify for enrollment as
7 a full time student in an institution of higher education, who would
8 otherwise qualify as a needy student, and who is attending an
9 institution of higher education under an established program designed
10 to qualify the student for enrollment as a full time student.

11 (5) "Board" means the higher education coordinating board.

12 (6) "Former foster youth" means a person who:

13 (a) Is between the ages of sixteen and twenty-three;

14 (b) Has been in foster care in the state of Washington for a
15 minimum of six months since his or her fourteenth birthday; and

16 (c) Has enrolled or will enroll in an institution of higher
17 education in Washington state within three years of high school
18 graduation or having successfully completed his or her GED.

19 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.12.060 and 2002 c 354 s 224 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 The higher education coordinating board shall adopt rules as may be
22 necessary or appropriate for effecting the provisions of this chapter,
23 and not in conflict with this chapter, in accordance with the
24 provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, the state higher education
25 administrative procedure act. Such rules shall include provisions
26 designed to make employment under the work-study program reasonably
27 available, to the extent of available funds, to all eligible students
28 in eligible postsecondary institutions in need thereof. The rules
29 shall include:

30 (1) Providing work under the state work-study program that will not
31 result in the displacement of employed workers or impair existing
32 contracts for services;

33 (2) Furnishing work only to a student who:

34 (a) Is capable, in the opinion of the eligible institution, of
35 maintaining good standing in such course of study while employed under
36 the program covered by the agreement; and

1 (b) Has been accepted for enrollment as at least a half-time
2 student at the eligible institution or, in the case of a student
3 already enrolled in and attending the eligible institution, is in good
4 standing and in at least half-time attendance there either as an
5 undergraduate, graduate or professional student; and

6 (c) Is not pursuing a degree in theology;

7 (3) Placing priority on providing:

8 (a) Work opportunities for students who are residents of the state
9 of Washington as defined in RCW 28B.15.012 and 28B.15.013, particularly
10 former foster youth as defined in RCW 28B.92.030, except resident
11 students defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2)((~~f~~)) (g);

12 (b) Job placements in fields related to each student's academic or
13 vocational pursuits, with an emphasis on off-campus job placements
14 whenever appropriate; and

15 (c) Off-campus community service placements;

16 (4) Provisions to assure that in the state institutions of higher
17 education, utilization of this work-study program:

18 (a) Shall only supplement and not supplant classified positions
19 under jurisdiction of chapter 41.06 RCW;

20 (b) That all positions established which are comparable shall be
21 identified to a job classification under the director of personnel's
22 classification plan and shall receive equal compensation;

23 (c) Shall not take place in any manner that would replace
24 classified positions reduced due to lack of funds or work; and

25 (d) That work study positions shall only be established at entry
26 level positions of the classified service unless the overall scope and
27 responsibilities of the position indicate a higher level; and

28 (5) Provisions to encourage job placements in occupations that meet
29 Washington's economic development goals, especially those in
30 international trade and international relations. The board shall
31 permit appropriate job placements in other states and other countries.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If any provision of this act or its
33 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
34 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
35 persons or circumstances is not affected."

36 Correct the title.

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