
SENATE BILL 5075

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Schmidt, Pridemore, Rasmussen, Kline and Rockefeller; by request of Governor Locke

Read first time 01/12/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to academic eligibility for the Washington promise
2 scholarship program; and amending RCW 28B.119.010.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.119.010 and 2004 c 275 s 60 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The higher education coordinating board shall design the Washington
7 promise scholarship program based on the following parameters:

8 (1) Scholarships shall be awarded to students graduating from
9 public and approved private high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW,
10 students participating in home-based instruction as provided in chapter
11 28A.200 RCW, and persons twenty-one years of age or younger receiving
12 a GED certificate, who meet both an academic and a financial
13 eligibility criteria.

14 (a) Academic eligibility criteria shall be defined as follows:

15 (i) Beginning with the graduating class of 2002, students
16 graduating from public and approved private high schools under chapter
17 28A.195 RCW must be in the top ((fifteen)) twenty percent of their
18 graduating class, as identified by each respective high school at the
19 completion of the first term of the student's senior year; or

1 (ii) Students graduating from public high schools, approved private
2 high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, students participating in home-
3 based instruction as provided in chapter 28A.200 RCW, and persons
4 twenty-one years of age or younger receiving a GED certificate, must
5 equal or exceed a cumulative scholastic assessment test I score of
6 twelve hundred on their first attempt or must equal or exceed a
7 composite American college test score of twenty-seven on their first
8 attempt.

9 (b) To meet the financial eligibility criteria, a student's family
10 income shall not exceed one hundred thirty-five percent of the state
11 median family income adjusted for family size, as determined by the
12 higher education coordinating board for each graduating class.
13 Students not meeting the eligibility requirements for the first year of
14 scholarship benefits may reapply for the second year of benefits, but
15 must still meet the income standard set by the board for the student's
16 graduating class.

17 (2) Promise scholarships are not intended to supplant any grant,
18 scholarship, or tax program related to postsecondary education. If the
19 board finds that promise scholarships supplant or reduce any grant,
20 scholarship, or tax program for categories of students, then the board
21 shall adjust the financial eligibility criteria or the amount of
22 scholarship to the level necessary to avoid supplanting.

23 (3) Within available funds, each qualifying student shall receive
24 two consecutive annual awards, the value of each not to exceed the
25 full-time annual resident tuition rates charged by Washington's
26 community colleges. The higher education coordinating board shall
27 award scholarships to as many students as possible from among those
28 qualifying under this section.

29 (4) By October 15th of each year, the board shall determine the
30 award amount of the scholarships, after taking into consideration the
31 availability of funds.

32 (5) The scholarships may only be used for undergraduate coursework
33 at accredited institutions of higher education in the state of
34 Washington.

35 (6) The scholarships may be used for undergraduate coursework at
36 Oregon institutions of higher education that are part of the border
37 county higher education opportunity project in RCW 28B.76.685 when

1 those institutions offer programs not available at accredited
2 institutions of higher education in Washington state.

3 (7) The scholarships may be used for college-related expenses,
4 including but not limited to, tuition, room and board, books, and
5 materials.

6 (8) The scholarships may not be awarded to any student who is
7 pursuing a degree in theology.

8 (9) The higher education coordinating board may establish
9 satisfactory progress standards for the continued receipt of the
10 promise scholarship.

11 (10) The higher education coordinating board shall establish the
12 time frame within which the student must use the scholarship.

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