
Higher Education Committee

HB 2157

Brief Description: Expanding resident student eligibility for purposes of the state need grant program.

Sponsors: Representatives Hudgins, Kenney and Hasegawa.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Expands the definition of "resident student" for the purpose of determining State Need Grant eligibility.

Hearing Date: 2/26/07

Staff: Jennifer Thornton (786-7111).

Background:

Resident Tuition

State law provides uniform standards for determining whether a student will be charged resident or non-resident tuition at the state's public colleges and universities. EHB 1079, enacted in 2003, expanded the definition of "resident student" for the purpose of qualification for in-state tuition by including students who meet all of the following criteria:

- attended at least three years of high school in Washington;
- graduated from a Washington high school or obtained the equivalent of a diploma in Washington; and
- if the student is not a United States' citizen, he/she is required to submit an affidavit to the college or university stating he/she has applied, or will apply, for permanent United States residency.

State Need Grant

The Washington State Need Grant is the largest state need-based aid program, assisting approximately 65,000 students in 2005-06. This program is targeted to those students in Washington with the greatest financial need. Students with up to 65 percent of the Median Family Income, (approximately \$46,500 for a family of four) are eligible to receive an award. State Need

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Grants are only available to resident students. The definition used for resident students does not include the students who qualify for in-state tuition based on EHB 1079 from 2003.

Summary of Bill:

Eligibility for the State Need Grant is expanded to include students who meet all of the following criteria:

- earned a high school diploma or the equivalent of a diploma in Washington;
- lived in Washington for at least three years immediately prior to receiving the diploma or the equivalent;
- has continuously lived in the state of Washington after receiving the diploma or equivalent until being admitted to a post-secondary institution; and
- provides the institution with an affidavit indicating the intent to apply to become a permanent resident at the earliest possible opportunity and willingness to engage in any activities necessary to acquire citizenship.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 24, 2007.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.