

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1131**

60th Legislature  
2007 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 14, 2007  
Yeas 78 Nays 16

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2007  
Yeas 47 Nays 2

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1131** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1131**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2007 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Dunshee, Haler, Kenney, Fromhold, Priest, Roberts, Jarrett, Kagi, Hunt, McDermott, Haigh, Ormsby, Chase, Wallace, Hudgins, Schual-Berke, Simpson, Conway, Morrell, Moeller and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/07.

1            AN ACT Relating to helping former foster care youth gain  
2 postsecondary education and providing scholarships to former foster  
3 care youth for this purpose; adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW; and  
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The legislature finds that in  
7 Washington, there are more than seven thousand three hundred children  
8 in foster family or group care. These children face unique obstacles  
9 and burdens as they transition to adulthood, including lacking  
10 continuity in their elementary and high school educations. As compared  
11 to the general population of students, twice as many foster care youth  
12 change schools at least once during their elementary and secondary  
13 school careers, and three times as many change schools at least three  
14 times. Only thirty-four percent of foster care youth graduate from  
15 high school within four years, compared to seventy percent for the  
16 general population. Of the former foster care youth who earn a high  
17 school diploma, more than twenty-eight percent earn a GED instead of a  
18 traditional high school diploma. This is almost six times the rate of  
19 the general population. Research indicates that GED holders tend not

1 to be as economically successful as the holders of traditional high  
2 school diplomas. Only twenty percent of former foster care youth who  
3 earn a high school degree enroll in college, compared to over sixty  
4 percent of the population generally. Of the former foster care youth  
5 who do enroll in college, very few go on to earn a degree. Less than  
6 two percent of former foster care youth hold bachelor's degrees,  
7 compared to twenty-eight percent of Washington's population generally.

8 (b) Former foster care youth face two critical hurdles to enrolling  
9 in college. The first is a lack of information regarding preparation  
10 for higher education and their options for enrolling in higher  
11 education. The second is finding the financial resources to fund their  
12 education. As a result of the unique hurdles and challenges that face  
13 former foster care youth, a disproportionate number of them are part of  
14 society's large group of marginalized youth and are at increased risk  
15 of continuing the cycle of poverty and violence that frequently plagues  
16 their families.

17 (c) Former foster care youth suffer from mental health problems at  
18 a rate greater than that of the general population. For example, one  
19 in four former foster care youth report having suffered from  
20 posttraumatic stress disorder within the previous twelve months,  
21 compared to only four percent of the general population. Similarly,  
22 the incidence of major depression among former foster care youth is  
23 twice that of the general population, twenty percent versus ten  
24 percent.

25 (d) There are other barriers for former foster care youth to  
26 achieving successful adulthood. One-third of former foster care youth  
27 live in households that are at or below the poverty level. This is  
28 three times the rate for the general population. The percentage of  
29 former foster care youth who report being homeless within one year of  
30 leaving foster care varies from over ten percent to almost twenty-five  
31 percent. By comparison, only one percent of the general population  
32 reports having been homeless at sometime during the past year. One in  
33 three former foster care youth lack health insurance, compared to less  
34 than one in five people in the general population. One in six former  
35 foster care youth receive cash public assistance. This is five times  
36 the rate of the general population.

37 (e) Approximately twenty-five percent of former foster care youth  
38 are incarcerated at sometime after leaving foster care. This is four

1 times the rate of incarceration for the general population. Of the  
2 former foster care youth who "age out" of foster care, twenty-seven  
3 percent of the males and ten percent of the females are incarcerated  
4 within twelve to eighteen months of leaving foster care.

5 (f) Female former foster care youth become sexually active more  
6 than seven months earlier than their nonfoster care counterparts, have  
7 more sexual partners, and have a mean age of first pregnancy of almost  
8 two years earlier than their peers who were not in foster care.

9 (2) The legislature intends to create the passport to college  
10 promise pilot program. The pilot program will initially operate for a  
11 six-year period, and will have two primary components, as follows:

12 (a) Significantly increasing outreach to foster care youth between  
13 the ages of fourteen and eighteen regarding the higher education  
14 opportunities available to them, how to apply to college, and how to  
15 apply for and obtain financial aid; and

16 (b) Providing financial aid to former foster care youth to assist  
17 with the costs of their public undergraduate college education.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
19 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

20 (1) "Cost of attendance" means the cost associated with attending  
21 a particular institution of higher education as determined by the  
22 higher education coordinating board, including but not limited to  
23 tuition, fees, room, board, books, personal expenses, and  
24 transportation, plus the cost of reasonable additional expenses  
25 incurred by an eligible student and approved by a financial aid  
26 administrator at the student's school of attendance.

27 (2) "Emancipated from foster care" means a person who was a  
28 dependent of the state in accordance with chapter 13.34 RCW and who was  
29 receiving foster care in the state of Washington when he or she reached  
30 his or her eighteenth birthday.

31 (3) "Financial need" means the difference between a student's cost  
32 of attendance and the student's total family contribution as determined  
33 by the method prescribed by the United States department of education.

34 (4) "Independent college or university" means a private, nonprofit  
35 institution of higher education, open to residents of the state,  
36 providing programs of education beyond the high school level leading to  
37 at least the baccalaureate degree, and accredited by the Northwest

1 association of schools and colleges, and other institutions as may be  
2 developed that are approved by the higher education coordinating board  
3 as meeting equivalent standards as those institutions accredited under  
4 this section.

5 (5) "Institution of higher education" means:

6 (a) Any public university, college, community college, or technical  
7 college operated by the state of Washington or any political  
8 subdivision thereof; or

9 (b) Any independent college or university in Washington; or

10 (c) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the  
11 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level  
12 that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized  
13 by rule of the higher education coordinating board for the purposes of  
14 this section: PROVIDED, That any institution, branch, extension, or  
15 facility operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated  
16 with an institution operating in another state must be a separately  
17 accredited member institution of any such accrediting association, or  
18 a branch of a member institution of an accrediting association  
19 recognized by rule of the board for purposes of this section, that is  
20 eligible for federal student financial aid assistance and has operated  
21 as a nonprofit college or university delivering on-site classroom  
22 instruction for a minimum of twenty consecutive years within the state  
23 of Washington, and has an annual enrollment of at least seven hundred  
24 full-time equivalent students.

25 (6) "Program" means the passport to college promise pilot program  
26 created in this chapter.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The passport to college promise pilot  
28 program is created. The purpose of the program is:

29 (1) To encourage current and former foster care youth to prepare  
30 for, attend, and successfully complete higher education; and

31 (2) To provide current and former foster care youth with the  
32 educational planning, information, institutional support, and direct  
33 financial resources necessary for them to succeed in higher education.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The higher education coordinating board  
35 shall design and, to the extent funds are appropriated for this

1 purpose, implement, a program of supplemental scholarship and student  
2 assistance for students who have emancipated from the state foster care  
3 system after having spent at least one year in care.

4 (2) The board shall convene and consult with an advisory committee  
5 to assist with program design and implementation. The committee shall  
6 include but not be limited to former foster care youth and their  
7 advocates; representatives from the state board for community and  
8 technical colleges, and from public and private agencies that assist  
9 current and former foster care recipients in their transition to  
10 adulthood; and student support specialists from public and private  
11 colleges and universities.

12 (3) To the extent that sufficient funds have been appropriated for  
13 this purpose, a student is eligible for assistance under this section  
14 if he or she:

15 (a) Emancipated from foster care on or after January 1, 2007, after  
16 having spent at least one year in foster care subsequent to his or her  
17 sixteenth birthday;

18 (b) Is a resident student, as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2);

19 (c) Is enrolled with or will enroll on at least a half-time basis  
20 with an institution of higher education in Washington state by the age  
21 of twenty-one;

22 (d) Is making satisfactory academic progress toward the completion  
23 of a degree or certificate program, if receiving supplemental  
24 scholarship assistance;

25 (e) Has not earned a bachelor's or professional degree; and

26 (f) Is not pursuing a degree in theology.

27 (4) A passport to college scholarship under this section:

28 (a) Shall not exceed resident undergraduate tuition and fees at the  
29 highest-priced public institution of higher education in the state; and

30 (b) Shall not exceed the student's financial need, less a  
31 reasonable self-help amount defined by the board, when combined with  
32 all other public and private grant, scholarship, and waiver assistance  
33 the student receives.

34 (5) An eligible student may receive a passport to college  
35 scholarship under this section for a maximum of five years after the  
36 student first enrolls with an institution of higher education or until  
37 the student turns age twenty-six, whichever occurs first. If a student  
38 turns age twenty-six during an academic year, and would otherwise be

1 eligible for a scholarship under this section, the student shall  
2 continue to be eligible for a scholarship for the remainder of the  
3 academic year.

4 (6) The higher education coordinating board, in consultation with  
5 and with assistance from the state board for community and technical  
6 colleges, shall perform an annual analysis to verify that those  
7 institutions of higher education at which students have received a  
8 scholarship under this section have awarded the student all available  
9 need-based and merit-based grant and scholarship aid for which the  
10 student qualifies.

11 (7) In designing and implementing the passport to college student  
12 support program under this section, the board, in consultation with and  
13 with assistance from the state board for community and technical  
14 colleges, shall ensure that a participating college or university:

15 (a) Has a viable plan for identifying students eligible for  
16 assistance under this section, for tracking and enhancing their  
17 academic progress, for addressing their unique needs for assistance  
18 during school vacations and academic interims, and for linking them to  
19 appropriate sources of assistance in their transition to adulthood;

20 (b) Receives financial and other incentives for achieving  
21 measurable progress in the recruitment, retention, and graduation of  
22 eligible students.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Effective operation of the passport to  
24 college promise pilot program requires early and accurate  
25 identification of former foster care youth so that they can be linked  
26 to the financial and other assistance that will help them succeed in  
27 college. To that end:

28 (1) All institutions of higher education that receive funding for  
29 student support services under section 4 of this act shall include on  
30 their applications for admission or on their registration materials a  
31 question asking whether the applicant has been in foster care in  
32 Washington state for at least one year since his or her sixteenth  
33 birthday. All other institutions of higher education are strongly  
34 encouraged to include such a question. No institution may consider  
35 whether an applicant may be eligible for a scholarship or student  
36 support services under this chapter when deciding whether the applicant  
37 will be granted admission.

1 (2) The department of social and health services shall devise and  
2 implement procedures for efficiently, promptly, and accurately  
3 identifying students and applicants who are eligible for services under  
4 section 4 of this act, and for sharing that information with the higher  
5 education coordinating board and with institutions of higher education.  
6 The procedures shall include appropriate safeguards for consent by the  
7 applicant or student before disclosure.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) To the extent funds are appropriated for  
9 this purpose, the higher education coordinating board, with input from  
10 the state board for community and technical colleges, the foster care  
11 partnership, and institutions of higher education, shall develop and  
12 maintain an internet web site and outreach program to serve as a  
13 comprehensive portal for foster care youth in Washington state to  
14 obtain information regarding higher education including, but not  
15 necessarily limited to:

16 (a) Academic, social, family, financial, and logistical information  
17 important to successful postsecondary educational success;

18 (b) How and when to obtain and complete college applications;

19 (c) What college placement tests, if any, are generally required  
20 for admission to college and when and how to register for such tests;

21 (d) How and when to obtain and complete a federal free application  
22 for federal student aid (FAFSA); and

23 (e) Detailed sources of financial aid likely available to eligible  
24 former foster care youth, including the financial aid provided by this  
25 chapter.

26 (2) The board shall determine whether to design, build, and operate  
27 such program and web site directly or to use, support, and modify  
28 existing web sites created by government or nongovernmental entities  
29 for a similar purpose.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) To the extent funds are appropriated for  
31 this purpose, the department of social and health services, with input  
32 from the state board for community and technical colleges, the higher  
33 education coordinating board, and institutions of higher education,  
34 shall contract with at least one nongovernmental entity through a  
35 request for proposals process to develop, implement, and administer a



1 program of supplemental educational transition planning for youth in  
2 foster care in Washington state.

3 (2) The nongovernmental entity or entities chosen by the department  
4 shall have demonstrated success in working with foster care youth and  
5 assisting foster care youth in successfully making the transition from  
6 foster care to independent adulthood.

7 (3) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities shall provide  
8 supplemental educational transition planning to foster care youth in  
9 Washington state beginning at age fourteen and then at least every six  
10 months thereafter. The supplemental transition planning shall include:

11 (a) Comprehensive information regarding postsecondary educational  
12 opportunities including, but not limited to, sources of financial aid,  
13 institutional characteristics and record of support for former foster  
14 care youth, transportation, housing, and other logistical  
15 considerations;

16 (b) How and when to apply to postsecondary educational programs;

17 (c) What precollege tests, if any, the particular foster care youth  
18 should take based on his or her postsecondary plans and when to take  
19 the tests;

20 (d) What courses to take to prepare the particular foster care  
21 youth to succeed at his or her postsecondary plans;

22 (e) Social, community, educational, logistical, and other issues  
23 that frequently impact college students and their success rates; and

24 (f) Which web sites, nongovernmental entities, public agencies, and  
25 other foster care youth support providers specialize in which services.

26 (4) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities shall work  
27 directly with the school counselors at the foster care youths' high  
28 schools to ensure that a consistent and complete transition plan has  
29 been prepared for each foster care youth who emancipates out of the  
30 foster care system in Washington state.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) The higher education coordinating board  
32 shall report to appropriate committees of the legislature by January  
33 15, 2008, on the status of program design and implementation. The  
34 report shall include a discussion of proposed scholarship and student  
35 support service approaches; an estimate of the number of students who  
36 will receive such services; baseline information on the extent to which  
37 former foster care youth who meet the eligibility criteria in section

1 4 of this act have enrolled and persisted in postsecondary education;  
2 and recommendations for any statutory changes needed to promote  
3 achievement of program objectives.

4 (2) The state board for community and technical colleges and the  
5 higher education coordinating board shall monitor and analyze the  
6 extent to which eligible young people are increasing their  
7 participation, persistence, and progress in postsecondary education,  
8 and shall jointly submit a report on their findings to appropriate  
9 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2009, and by December 1,  
10 2011.

11 (3) The Washington state institute for public policy shall complete  
12 an evaluation of the passport to college promise pilot program and  
13 shall submit a report to appropriate committees of the legislature by  
14 December 1, 2012. The report shall estimate the impact of the program  
15 on eligible students' participation and success in postsecondary  
16 education, and shall include recommendations for program revision and  
17 improvement.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Nothing in this chapter may be construed to:

19 (1) Guarantee acceptance by, or entrance into, any institution of  
20 higher education; or

21 (2) Limit the participation of youth, in or formerly in, foster  
22 care in Washington state in any other program of financial assistance  
23 for postsecondary education.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This chapter expires June 30, 2013.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act  
26 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

--- END ---