
HOUSE BILL 2936

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representative Anderson

Read first time 01/19/10. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state student financial aid program;
2 amending RCW 28B.92.060, 28B.92.080, and 28B.92.120; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that, more than ever,
6 attending college provides opportunities for graduates that are not as
7 available to those who have not received a higher education. Providing
8 student aid to assure Washington students a chance at college is a
9 critical duty. However, the legislature also finds that resources are
10 scarce and the state is no longer in a position to provide the breadth
11 and depth of support it once did. In times of financial crisis,
12 resources must be targeted to those with the most need.

13 The legislature also finds that the majority of college entrants
14 are still young people. Despite recent growth in incumbent workers
15 returning to college, research indicates that even in community and
16 technical colleges that typically serve higher proportions of
17 nontraditional students, the median age of students ranges from twenty-
18 six to twenty-nine depending on program of study. Data also indicates

1 that retention is most challenging for students and institutions during
2 the first two years of study.

3 The legislature therefore intends to narrow the scope of the state
4 need grant program and assure the state can honor its commitments to
5 young people during the first two years of higher education.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.060 and 2009 c 215 s 4 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

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

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

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

18 (b) Other considerations, such as whether the student is a former
19 foster youth, or is a placebound student who has completed an associate
20 of arts or associate of science degree or its equivalent.

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

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

1 during the academic year, the unused portion of the grant shall be
2 returned to the state educational grant fund by the institution
3 according to the institution's own policy for issuing refunds, except
4 as provided in RCW 28B.92.070. Persons who were awarded a state need
5 grant before the start of the 2010-11 academic year and have been
6 continuously enrolled in an institution of higher education shall
7 receive a maximum of five total years of eligibility.

8 (4) In computing financial need, the board shall determine a
9 maximum student expense budget allowance, not to exceed an amount equal
10 to the total maximum student expense budget at the public institutions
11 plus the current average state appropriation per student for operating
12 expense in the public institutions. Any child support payments
13 received by students who are parents attending less than half-time
14 shall not be used in computing financial need.

15 (5)(a) A student who is enrolled in three to six credit-bearing
16 quarter credits, or the equivalent semester credits, may receive a
17 grant for up to one academic year before beginning a program that leads
18 to a degree or certificate.

19 (b) An eligible student enrolled on a less-than-full-time basis
20 shall receive a prorated portion of his or her state need grant for any
21 academic period in which he or she is enrolled on a less-than-full-time
22 basis, as long as funds are available.

23 (c) An institution of higher education may award a state need grant
24 to an eligible student enrolled in three to six credit-bearing quarter
25 credits, or the semester equivalent, on a provisional basis if:

26 (i) The student has not previously received a state need grant from
27 that institution;

28 (ii) The student completes the required free application for
29 federal student aid;

30 (iii) The institution has reviewed the student's financial
31 condition, and the financial condition of the student's family if the
32 student is a dependent student, and has determined that the student is
33 likely eligible for a state need grant; and

34 (iv) The student has signed a document attesting to the fact that
35 the financial information provided on the free application for federal
36 student aid and any additional financial information provided directly
37 to the institution is accurate and complete, and that the student

1 agrees to repay the institution for the grant amount if the student
2 submitted false or incomplete information.

3 (6) As used in this section, "former foster youth" means a person
4 who is at least eighteen years of age, but not more than twenty-four
5 years of age, who was a dependent of the department of social and
6 health services at the time he or she attained the age of eighteen.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.92.080 and 2009 c 238 s 9 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 Except for opportunity internship graduates whose eligibility is
10 provided under RCW 28B.92.084, for a student to be eligible for a state
11 need grant a student must:

12 (1) Be a "needy student" or "disadvantaged student" as determined
13 by the board in accordance with RCW 28B.92.030 (~~((3) and (4))~~);

14 (2) Have been domiciled within the state of Washington for at least
15 one year;

16 (3) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on at least a half-time
17 basis at an institution of higher education in Washington as defined in
18 RCW 28B.92.030(~~((1))~~);

19 (4) Be twenty-nine years of age or younger at the time of
20 application, unless the student is solely responsible for a dependent
21 child or received a state need grant before the 2010-11 academic year
22 and has been continuously enrolled in an institution of higher
23 education;

24 (5) Until June 30, 2011, to the extent funds are specifically
25 appropriated for this purpose, and subject to any terms and conditions
26 specified in the omnibus appropriations act, be enrolled or accepted
27 for enrollment for at least three quarter credits or the equivalent
28 semester credits at an institution of higher education in Washington as
29 defined in RCW 28B.92.030(~~((1))~~); and

30 (~~((5))~~) (6) Have complied with all the rules adopted by the board
31 for the administration of this chapter.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.92.120 and 2004 c 275 s 41 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 Funds appropriated for student financial assistance to be granted
35 pursuant to this chapter shall be disbursed as determined by the board;
36 however at least fifty percent of funds must be reserved for students

1 attending an institution of higher education on a part-time or less-
2 than-half-time basis. If the board finds that demand for financial aid
3 for part-time and less-than-half-time students will not account for
4 fifty percent of funds, then remaining funds may be disbursed to
5 provide grants to students enrolled full time.

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