
SENATE BILL 5787

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Becker, Holmquist Newbry, Hill, Stevens, Swecker, Shin, and Honeyford

Read first time 02/14/11. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to state need grant student merit considerations;
2 and amending RCW 28B.92.060.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.060 and 2009 c 215 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

7 (3) A student shall be eligible to receive a state need grant for
8 up to five years, or the credit or clock hour equivalent of five years,
9 or up to one hundred twenty-five percent of the published length of
10 time of the student's program. A student may not start a new associate
11 degree program as a state need grant recipient until at least five
12 years have elapsed since earning an associate degree as a need grant
13 recipient, except that a student may earn two associate degrees
14 concurrently. Qualifications for renewal will include maintaining
15 satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an eligible program
16 as determined by the board. Should the recipient terminate his or her
17 enrollment for any reason during the academic year, the unused portion
18 of the grant shall be returned to the state educational grant fund by
19 the institution according to the institution's own policy for issuing
20 refunds, except as provided in RCW 28B.92.070.

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

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

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

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

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

3 (ii) The student completes the required free application for
4 federal student aid;

5 (iii) The institution has reviewed the student's financial
6 condition, and the financial condition of the student's family if the
7 student is a dependent student, and has determined that the student is
8 likely eligible for a state need grant; and

9 (iv) The student has signed a document attesting to the fact that
10 the financial information provided on the free application for federal
11 student aid and any additional financial information provided directly
12 to the institution is accurate and complete, and that the student
13 agrees to repay the institution for the grant amount if the student
14 submitted false or incomplete information.

15 (6) As long as funds are available and subject to the provisions in
16 subsection (5) of this section, a student shall be eligible to receive:

17 (i) A state need grant award of up to one hundred percent of the
18 student's unmet financial need if the student is enrolling in an
19 institution of higher education for the first time;

20 (ii) A base state need grant award of up to twenty-five percent of
21 the student's unmet financial need if the student has below a C annual
22 grade point average at an institution of higher education;

23 (iii) A state need grant academic merit award of:

24 (A) Up to fifty percent of the student's unmet financial need if
25 the student has a C annual grade point average at an institution of
26 higher education;

27 (B) Up to seventy-five percent of the student's unmet financial
28 need if the student has a B annual grade point average at an
29 institution of higher education; or

30 (C) Up to one hundred fifteen percent of the student's unmet
31 financial need if the student has a A annual grade point average at an
32 institution of higher education.

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

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