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SENATE BILL 5843

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Becker, Zarelli, and Stevens

Read first time 02/21/11. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the college bound scholarship program; amending  
2 RCW 28B.118.010; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2008 c 321 s 9 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The higher education coordinating board shall design the Washington  
7 college bound scholarship program in accordance with this section.

8 (1) "Eligible students" are those students who qualify for free or  
9 reduced-price lunches. If a student qualifies in the seventh grade,  
10 the student remains eligible even if the student does not receive free  
11 or reduced-price lunches thereafter.

12 (2) Eligible students shall be notified of their eligibility for  
13 the Washington college bound scholarship program beginning in their  
14 seventh grade year. Students shall also be notified of the  
15 requirements for award of the scholarship.

16 (3) To be eligible for a Washington college bound scholarship, a  
17 student must sign a pledge before the effective date of this section  
18 during seventh or eighth grade that includes a commitment to graduate  
19 from high school with at least a C average and with no felony

1 convictions. Students who were in the eighth grade during the 2007-08  
2 school year may sign the pledge during the 2008-09 school year. The  
3 pledge must be witnessed by a parent or guardian and forwarded to the  
4 higher education coordinating board by mail or electronically, as  
5 indicated on the pledge form.

6 (4)(a) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students  
7 graduating from public high schools, approved private high schools  
8 under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or who received home-based instruction under  
9 chapter 28A.200 RCW.

10 (b) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a student  
11 must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high school or  
12 an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW in Washington  
13 or have received home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, must  
14 have no felony convictions, and must be a resident student as defined  
15 in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

16 (5) A student's family income will be assessed upon graduation  
17 before awarding the scholarship.

18 (6) If at graduation from high school the student's family income  
19 does not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family income,  
20 scholarship award amounts shall be as provided in this section.

21 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of higher  
22 education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the value of the award shall be  
23 (i) the difference between the student's tuition and required fees,  
24 less the value of any state-funded grant, scholarship, or waiver  
25 assistance the student receives; (ii) plus five hundred dollars for  
26 books and materials.

27 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of higher  
28 education in Washington, the award amount shall be the representative  
29 average of awards granted to students in public research universities  
30 in Washington.

31 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in  
32 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of  
33 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges  
34 in Washington.

35 (7) Recipients may receive no more than four full-time years' worth  
36 of scholarship awards.

37 (8) Institutions of higher education shall award the student all  
38 need-based and merit-based financial aid for which the student would

1 otherwise qualify. The Washington college bound scholarship is  
2 intended to replace unmet need, loans, and, at the student's option,  
3 work-study award before any other grants or scholarships are reduced.

4 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students graduating  
5 in 2012.

6 (10) The state of Washington retains legal ownership of tuition  
7 units awarded as scholarships under this chapter until the tuition  
8 units are redeemed. These tuition units shall remain separately held  
9 from any tuition units owned under chapter 28B.95 RCW by a Washington  
10 college bound scholarship recipient.

11 (11) The scholarship award must be used within five years of  
12 receipt. Any unused scholarship tuition units revert to the Washington  
13 college bound scholarship account.

14 (12) Should the recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any  
15 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the scholarship  
16 tuition units shall revert to the Washington college bound scholarship  
17 account.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
20 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
21 immediately.

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