
SENATE BILL 5655

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Murray, Keiser, Kohl-Welles, Hasegawa, Shin, Kline, Nelson, Billig, Mullet, Conway, Darneille, Ranker, Chase, McAuliffe, Frockt, Fraser, Harper, Cleveland, and Eide

Read first time 02/07/13. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding existing higher education financial
2 aid programs to state residents; amending RCW 28B.92.010; reenacting
3 and amending RCW 28B.118.010; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to make
6 the state need grant and the college bound scholarship available to
7 resident students who have received a diploma, or its equivalent, in
8 Washington state and have lived in Washington state for many years.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.010 and 2004 c 275 s 34 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 The purposes of this chapter are to establish the principles upon
12 which the state financial aid programs will be based and to establish
13 the state of Washington state need grant program, thus assisting
14 financially needy or disadvantaged students domiciled in Washington to
15 obtain the opportunity of attending an accredited institution of higher
16 education. State need grants under this chapter are available only to
17 students who are resident students as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a)
18 through ((+d+)) (e).

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2012 c 229 s 402 and 2012 c 163 s 8
2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3 The office of student financial assistance shall design the
4 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this
5 section and in alignment with the state need grant program in chapter
6 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section.

7 (1) "Eligible students" are those students who:

8 (a) Qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. If a student
9 qualifies in the seventh grade, the student remains eligible even if
10 the student does not receive free or reduced-price lunches thereafter;
11 or

12 (b) Are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and:

13 (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

14 (ii) Are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and have not
15 graduated from high school.

16 (2) Eligible students shall be notified of their eligibility for
17 the Washington college bound scholarship program beginning in their
18 seventh grade year. Students shall also be notified of the
19 requirements for award of the scholarship.

20 (3)(a) To be eligible for a Washington college bound scholarship,
21 a student eligible under subsection (1)(a) of this section must sign a
22 pledge during seventh or eighth grade that includes a commitment to
23 graduate from high school with at least a C average and with no felony
24 convictions. The pledge must be witnessed by a parent or guardian and
25 forwarded to the office of student financial assistance by mail or
26 electronically, as indicated on the pledge form.

27 (b) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section
28 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the
29 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be
30 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the
31 (~~higher education coordinating board or its successor~~) office of
32 student financial assistance by mail or electronically, as indicated on
33 the form.

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

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

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

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

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

18 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of higher
19 education in Washington, the award amount shall be the representative
20 average of awards granted to students in public research universities
21 in Washington.

22 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
23 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
24 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
25 in Washington.

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

28 (8) Institutions of higher education shall award the student all
29 need-based and merit-based financial aid for which the student would
30 otherwise qualify. The Washington college bound scholarship is
31 intended to replace unmet need, loans, and, at the student's option,
32 work-study award before any other grants or scholarships are reduced.

33 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students graduating
34 in 2012.

35 (10) The state of Washington retains legal ownership of tuition
36 units awarded as scholarships under this chapter until the tuition
37 units are redeemed. These tuition units shall remain separately held

1 from any tuition units owned under chapter 28B.95 RCW by a Washington
2 college bound scholarship recipient.

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

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

--- END ---