

SSB 5534 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Higher Education

ADOPTED 4/15/2015

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The certified public accounting
4 scholarship program is established.

5 (2) The purpose of this scholarship program is to increase the
6 number of students pursuing the certified public accounting license
7 in Washington state.

8 (3) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students based on
9 merit and without regard to age, gender, race, creed, religion,
10 ethnic or national origin, or sexual orientation. In the selection
11 process, the foundation is encouraged to consider the level of
12 financial need demonstrated by applicants who otherwise meet merit-
13 based scholarship criteria.

14 (4) Scholarships shall be awarded every year not to exceed the
15 net balance of the foundation's scholarship award account.

16 (5) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students for one
17 year. Qualified applicants may reapply in subsequent years.

18 (6) Scholarships awarded to program participants shall be paid
19 directly to the Washington-based college or university where the
20 program participant is enrolled.

21 (7) A scholarship award for any program participant shall not
22 exceed the cost of tuition and fees assessed by the college or
23 university on that individual program participant for the academic
24 year of the award.

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

28 (1) "Board" means the board of accountancy created in RCW
29 18.04.035.

30 (2) "Eligible student" means a student enrolled at an accredited
31 Washington-based college or university with a declared major in
32 accounting, entering his or her junior year or higher. "Eligible

1 student" includes community college transfer students, residents of
2 Washington pursuing an online degree in accounting, and students
3 pursuing a masters in tax, masters in accounting, or a PhD in
4 accounting.

5 (3) "Foundation" means the Washington CPA foundation.

6 (4) "Program" means the certificated public accounting
7 scholarship program created in this chapter.

8 (5) "Program participant" means an eligible student who is
9 awarded a scholarship under the program.

10 (6) "Resident student" has the definition in RCW 28B.15.012.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The board must contract with a foundation
12 to develop and administer the program. The board shall provide
13 oversight and guidance for the program in light of established
14 legislative priorities and to fulfill the duties and responsibilities
15 under this chapter and chapter 18.04 RCW, including determining
16 eligible education programs for purposes of the program. The board
17 shall negotiate a reasonable administrative fee for the services
18 provided by the foundation. In addition to its contractual
19 obligations with the board, the foundation has the duties and
20 responsibilities to:

21 (1) Establish a separate scholarship award account to receive
22 state funds and from which to disburse scholarship awards;

23 (2) Manage and invest funds in the separate scholarship award
24 account to maximize returns at a prudent level of risk and to
25 maintain books and records of the account for examination by the
26 board as it deems necessary or appropriate;

27 (3) In consultation with the board, make an assessment of the
28 reasonable annual eligible expenses associated with eligible
29 education programs identified by the board;

30 (4) Work with board, institutions of higher education, the
31 student achievement council, and other organizations to promote and
32 publicize the program to obtain a wide and diverse group of
33 applicants;

34 (5) Develop and implement an application, selection, and
35 notification process for awarding certified public accounting
36 scholarships;

37 (6) Determine the annual amount of the certified public
38 accounting scholarship for each program participant;

1 (7) Distribute scholarship awards to colleges and universities
2 for program participants; and

3 (8) Notify the student achievement council and colleges and
4 universities of enrolled program participants and inform them of the
5 terms and conditions of the scholarship award.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** By January 1, 2016, and annually each
7 January 1st thereafter, the foundation contracted with under section
8 3 of this act shall report to the board regarding the program,
9 including:

10 (1) An accounting of receipts and disbursements of the
11 foundation's separate scholarship award account including any
12 realized or unrealized gains or losses and the resulting change in
13 account balance;

14 (2) A list of the program participants and the scholarship amount
15 awarded, by year; and

16 (3) Other outcome measures necessary for the board to assess the
17 impacts of the program.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The certified public accounting
19 scholarship transfer account is created in the custody of the state
20 treasurer. Expenditures from the account may be used solely for
21 scholarships and the administration of the program created in section
22 1 of this act.

23 (2) Revenues to the account shall consist of appropriations by
24 the legislature and any gifts, grants, or donations received by the
25 board for this purpose.

26 (3) Only the director of the board or the director's designee
27 may authorize expenditures from the certified public accounting
28 scholarship transfer account. The account is not subject to the
29 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW and an appropriation is
30 not required for expenditures.

31 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.04.065 and 2001 c 294 s 6 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 The board shall set its fees at a level adequate to pay the costs
34 of administering this chapter. All fees for licenses, registrations
35 of nonlicensee partners, shareholders, and managers of licensed
36 firms, renewals of licenses, renewals of registrations of nonlicensee
37 partners, shareholders, and managers of licensed firms, renewals of

1 certificates, reinstatements of lapsed licenses, reinstatements of
2 lapsed certificates, reinstatements of lapsed registrations of
3 nonlicensee partners, shareholders, and managers of licensed firms,
4 practice privileges under RCW 18.04.350, and delinquent filings
5 received under the authority of this chapter shall be deposited in
6 the certified public accountants' account created by RCW 18.04.105.
7 Appropriation from such account shall be made only for the cost of
8 administering the provisions of this chapter or for the purpose of
9 administering the certified public accounting scholarship program
10 created in chapter 28B.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 7
11 of this act).

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act
13 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW."

14 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Encourages the CPA Foundation to consider the level of financial need demonstrated by applicants who otherwise meet merit-based scholarship criteria during the selection process. Requires the CPA Foundation to notify the Washington Student Achievement Council of enrolled program participants and inform them of the terms and conditions of the scholarship award, in addition to colleges and universities.

--- END ---