
SENATE BILL 5534

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Bailey, Kohl-Welles, Hill, Conway, Rivers, Rolfes, Hargrove, and Chase

Read first time 01/23/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a certified public accounting
2 scholarship program; and adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW.

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

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

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

9 (3) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students based on
10 merit and without regard to age, gender, race, creed, religion,
11 ethnic or national origin, or sexual orientation.

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

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

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

19 (7) A scholarship award for any program participant shall not
20 exceed the cost of tuition and fees assessed by the college or

1 university on that individual program participant for the academic
2 year of the award.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
4 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
5 otherwise.

6 (1) "Board" means the board of accountancy created in RCW
7 18.04.035.

8 (2) "Eligible student" means a student enrolled at an accredited
9 Washington-based college or university with a declared major in
10 accounting, entering his or her junior year or higher. "Eligible
11 student" includes community college transfer students, residents of
12 Washington pursuing an online degree in accounting, and students
13 pursuing a masters in tax, masters in accounting, or a PhD in
14 accounting.

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

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

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

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

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The board must contract with a foundation
22 to develop and administer the program. The board shall provide
23 oversight and guidance for the program in light of established
24 legislative priorities and to fulfill the duties and responsibilities
25 under this chapter and chapter 18.04 RCW, including determining
26 eligible education programs for purposes of the program. The board
27 shall negotiate a reasonable administrative fee for the services
28 provided by the foundation. In addition to its contractual
29 obligations with the board, the foundation has the duties and
30 responsibilities to:

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

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

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

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

8 (5) Develop and implement an application, selection, and
9 notification process for awarding certified public accounting
10 scholarships;

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

13 (7) Distribute scholarship awards to colleges and universities
14 for program participants; and

15 (8) Notify colleges and universities of enrolled program
16 participants and inform them of the terms and conditions of the
17 scholarship award.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** By January 1, 2016, and annually each
19 January 1st thereafter, the foundation contracted with under section
20 3 of this act shall report to the board regarding the program,
21 including:

22 (1) An accounting of receipts and disbursements of the
23 foundation's separate scholarship award account including any
24 realized or unrealized gains or losses and the resulting change in
25 account balance;

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

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

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The certified public accounting
31 scholarship transfer account is created in the custody of the state
32 treasurer. Expenditures from the account may be used solely for
33 scholarships and the administration of the program created in section
34 1 of this act.

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

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act
7 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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