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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5851**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Frockt, Kohl-Welles, Miloscia, Lias, Mullet, Pedersen, Nelson, and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to recommendations of the college bound  
2 scholarship program work group; amending RCW 28B.118.040; adding new  
3 sections to chapter 28B.118 RCW; creating a new section; and  
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the college  
7 bound scholarship program has demonstrated that an early promise of  
8 financial aid results in increased high school graduation rates for  
9 low-income students. The promise of state financial aid to students  
10 from low-income families who work to graduate with sufficient grades  
11 and no felony convictions provides them with a path toward greater  
12 educational attainment and upward mobility. The scholarship program  
13 has the potential to move Washington toward its long-term goal of a  
14 better trained and educated workforce. Among the first two cohorts,  
15 college bound enrollees were fifteen percent and nineteen percent  
16 more likely to graduate from high school in 2012 and 2013 compared to  
17 low-income peers who were not part of the program.

18 The legislature also finds that a comprehensive review of the  
19 college bound scholarship program in 2014 resulted in unanimous  
20 recommendations to improve and enhance certain components of the  
21 program, including data collection, outreach, and program outcomes.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.118.040 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 228 are each  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       The office of student financial assistance shall:

4       (1) With the assistance of the office of the superintendent of  
5 public instruction, implement and administer the Washington college  
6 bound scholarship program;

7       (2) Develop and distribute, to all schools with students enrolled  
8 in grade seven or eight, a pledge form that can be completed and  
9 returned electronically or by mail by the student or the school to  
10 the office of student financial assistance;

11       (3) Develop and implement a student application, selection, and  
12 notification process for scholarships, which includes working with  
13 other state agencies, law enforcement, or the court system to verify  
14 that eligible students do not have felony convictions;

15       (4) Develop comprehensive social media outreach with grade-level  
16 specific information designed to keep students on track to graduate  
17 and leverage current tools such as the high school and beyond plan  
18 required by the state board of education and the ready set grad web  
19 site maintained by the student achievement council;

20       (5) Track scholarship recipients to ensure continued eligibility  
21 and determine student compliance for awarding of scholarships;

22       ~~((+5))~~ (6) Within existing resources, collaborate with college  
23 access providers and K-12, postsecondary, and youth-serving  
24 organizations to map and coordinate mentoring and advising resources  
25 across the state;

26       (7) Subject to appropriation, deposit funds into the state  
27 educational trust fund;

28       ~~((+6))~~ (8) Purchase tuition units under the advanced college  
29 tuition payment program in chapter 28B.95 RCW to be owned and held in  
30 trust by the board, for the purpose of scholarship awards as provided  
31 for in this section; and

32       ~~((+7))~~ (9) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of tuition  
33 units purchased under the advanced college tuition payment program in  
34 chapter 28B.95 RCW or through direct payments from the state  
35 educational trust fund, to institutions of higher education on behalf  
36 of scholarship recipients identified by the office, as long as  
37 recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress.

38       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118  
39 RCW to read as follows:

1 Each institution of higher education is encouraged to tailor  
2 advising resources for any enrolled student who is the recipient of a  
3 college bound scholarship. The institutions of higher education  
4 should identify campus officials, resources, programs, and other  
5 college bound scholarship students available to work with college  
6 bound scholarship recipients.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 Beginning January 1, 2015, and at a minimum every year  
10 thereafter, the student achievement council and all institutions of  
11 higher education eligible to participate in the college bound  
12 scholarship program shall ensure data needed to analyze and evaluate  
13 the effectiveness of the college bound scholarship program is  
14 promptly transmitted to the education data center created in RCW  
15 43.41.400 so that it is available and easily accessible. The data to  
16 be reported should include but not be limited to:

17 (1) The number of students who sign up for the college bound  
18 scholarship program in seventh or eighth grade;

19 (2) The number of college bound scholarship students who graduate  
20 from high school;

21 (3) The number of college bound scholarship students who enroll  
22 in postsecondary education;

23 (4) Persistence and completion rates of college bound scholarship  
24 recipients disaggregated by institutions of higher education;

25 (5) College bound scholarship recipient grade point averages;

26 (6) The number of college bound scholarship recipients who did  
27 not remain eligible and reasons for ineligibility;

28 (7) College bound scholarship program costs; and

29 (8) Impacts to the state need grant program.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118  
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) The Washington state institute for public policy shall  
33 complete an evaluation of the college bound scholarship program and  
34 submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by  
35 December 1, 2018. The report shall complement studies on the college  
36 bound scholarship program conducted at the University of Washington  
37 or elsewhere. To the extent it is not duplicative of other studies,  
38 the report shall evaluate educational outcomes emphasizing degree

1 completion rates at both secondary and postsecondary levels. The  
2 report shall study certain aspects of the college bound scholarship  
3 program, including but not limited to:

4 (a) College bound scholarship recipient grade point average and  
5 its relationship to positive outcomes;

6 (b) Variance in remediation needed between college bound  
7 scholarship recipient and their peers;

8 (c) Differentials in persistence between college bound  
9 scholarship recipients and their peers; and

10 (d) The impact of ineligibility for the college bound scholarship  
11 program, for reasons such as moving into the state after middle  
12 school or change in family income.

13 (2) This section expires August 1, 2019.

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