
HOUSE BILL 2504

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Hansen, Wylie, Slatter, Kloba, and Goodman

Read first time 01/10/18. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to making the funding of the opportunity
2 scholarship program a maintenance level item for budgeting purposes;
3 amending RCW 28B.145.040; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the opportunity
6 scholarship program is essential in the state's investment in
7 students entering high employer demand programs of study, especially
8 in areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The
9 legislature intends to ensure the predictable treatment of the
10 opportunity scholarship program in the budget process by clarifying
11 the calculation process of the state match required by RCW
12 28B.145.040. Nothing in this act is intended to require the caseload
13 forecast council to calculate the state match or change in any way
14 the responsibilities of the caseload forecast council.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.145.040 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 13 s 5 are each
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (1) The opportunity scholarship program is established.

18 (2) The purpose of this scholarship program is to provide
19 scholarships that will help low and middle-income Washington
20 residents earn baccalaureate degrees in high employer demand and

1 other programs of study and encourage them to remain in the state to
2 work. The program must be designed for both students starting at two-
3 year institutions of higher education and intending to transfer to
4 four-year institutions of higher education and students starting at
5 four-year institutions of higher education.

6 (3) The opportunity scholarship board shall determine which
7 programs of study, including but not limited to high employer demand
8 programs, are eligible for purposes of the opportunity scholarship.

9 (4) The source of funds for the program shall be a combination of
10 private grants and contributions and state matching funds. A state
11 match may be earned under this section for private contributions made
12 on or after June 6, 2011. The state match must be based on donations
13 and pledges received as of the date each official state caseload
14 forecast is submitted by the caseload forecast council to the
15 legislative fiscal committees, as provided under RCW 43.88C.020. A
16 state match, up to a maximum of fifty million dollars annually, shall
17 be provided beginning the later of January 1, 2014, or January 1st
18 next following the end of the fiscal year in which collections of
19 state retail sales and use tax, state business and occupation tax,
20 and state public utility tax exceed, by ten percent the amounts
21 collected from these tax resources in the fiscal year that ended June
22 30, 2008, as determined by the department of revenue.

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