
HOUSE BILL 2581

State of Washington

65th Legislature

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By Representatives Kilduff, Dent, Muri, and Kagi; by request of Department of Commerce

Read first time 01/10/18. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington achieving a better life
2 experience program account; and amending RCW 43.330.460, 43.330.462,
3 and 43.330.464.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.330.460 and 2016 c 39 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 43.330.462
8 through 43.330.468 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

9 (1) "Eligible individual" means an individual eligible for the
10 Washington achieving a better life experience program pursuant to
11 section 529A of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as
12 amended.

13 (2) "Governing board" means the Washington achieving a better
14 life experience program governing board in RCW 43.330.466.

15 (3) "Individual Washington achieving a better life experience
16 program account" means an account established by or for an eligible
17 individual and owned by the eligible individual pursuant to the
18 Washington achieving a better life experience program. Any moneys
19 placed in these accounts or achieving a better life experience
20 program accounts established in other states shall not be counted as

1 assets for purposes of state or local means tested program
2 eligibility or levels of state means tested program eligibility.

3 (4) "Washington achieving a better life experience program" means
4 a savings or investment program that establishes individual
5 Washington achieving a better life experience program accounts
6 pursuant to section 529A of the federal internal revenue code of
7 1986, as amended.

8 (5) "Washington achieving a better life experience program
9 account" means the account created in RCW 43.330.462(1), to be used
10 only for purposes of Washington achieving a better life experience
11 program administration and operation.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.330.462 and 2016 c 39 s 2 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) The Washington achieving a better life experience program
15 account is created in the custody of the state treasurer.
16 Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes of
17 administrative and operating expenses of the Washington achieving a
18 better life experience program established under this chapter, except
19 for expenses of the state investment board and the state treasurer as
20 specified in this section. (~~The account must be a discrete~~
21 ~~nontreasury account retaining its interest earnings in accordance~~
22 ~~with RCW 43.79A.040.))~~

23 (2) The account must be self-sustaining (~~and consist of~~),
24 include payments received from contributors to individual Washington
25 achieving a better life experience program accounts(~~. All payments~~
26 ~~contributed to the Washington achieving a better life experience~~
27 ~~program are~~), held in trust, and (~~must be deposited in the account.~~
28 ~~With the exception of investment and operating costs associated with~~
29 ~~the investment of money paid under RCW 43.08.190, 43.33A.160, and~~
30 ~~43.84.160, the account~~) must be credited with (~~all investment~~)
31 income earned by the account, and contributions to individual
32 Washington achieving a better life experience program accounts may be
33 invested in self-directed investment options. All self-directed
34 investment options must comply with section 529A of the federal
35 internal revenue code of 1986, as amended. Disbursements from the
36 account are exempt from appropriations and the allotment provisions
37 of chapter 43.88 RCW. An appropriation is not required for
38 expenditures.

1 (3) The assets of the account may be spent without appropriation
2 for the purpose of making payments to individual Washington achieving
3 a better life experience program account holders. Only the Washington
4 achieving a better life experience governing board or the board's
5 designee may authorize expenditures from the account.

6 (4) With regard to the assets of the account, the state acts in a
7 fiduciary, not ownership, capacity. Therefore, the assets of the
8 account are not considered state money, common cash, or revenue to
9 the state.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.330.464 and 2016 c 39 s 3 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) The governing board may elect to have the state investment
13 board or investment manager invest the money in the Washington
14 achieving a better life experience program account. If the governing
15 board so elects, the state investment board created in RCW 43.33A.020
16 or the investment manager has the full power to invest, reinvest,
17 manage, contract, sell, or exchange investment money in the
18 Washington achieving a better life experience program account. All
19 investment and operating costs associated with the investment of
20 money by the state investment board must be paid pursuant to RCW
21 43.33A.160 and 43.84.160. With the exception of these expenses, the
22 earnings from the investment of the money must be retained by the
23 account.

24 (2)(a) After consultation with the governing board, the state
25 investment board or investment manager may elect to invest any self-
26 directed accounts associated with the Washington achieving a better
27 life experience program. The state investment board or investment
28 manager has full authority to invest all self-directed investment
29 moneys in accordance with this section and RCW 43.84.150. In carrying
30 out this authority the state investment board or investment manager,
31 after consultation with the governing board regarding any
32 recommendations, shall provide a set of options for eligible
33 individuals to choose from for self-directed investment. Any self-
34 directed investment options provided must comply with section 529A of
35 the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as amended.

36 (b) All investment and operating costs of the state investment
37 board or investment manager associated with making self-directed
38 investments must be paid by eligible individuals and recovered under
39 procedures agreed to by the governing board and the state investment

1 board (~~pursuant to~~) or investment manager consistent with the
2 principles set forth in RCW 43.33A.160. All other expenses caused by
3 self-directed investments must be paid by the eligible individual in
4 accordance with rules established by the governing board. With the
5 exception of these expenses, all earnings from self-directed
6 investments shall accrue to the eligible individual's Washington
7 achieving a better life experience program account.

8 (c)(i) The governing board shall keep or cause to be kept full
9 and adequate accounts and records of each eligible individual
10 Washington achieving a better life experience program account.

11 (ii) The governing board shall account for and report on the
12 investment of self-directed assets or may enter into an agreement
13 with the (~~state investment board~~) recordkeepers for such accounting
14 and reporting under this chapter.

15 (iii) The governing board's duties related to eligible individual
16 Washington achieving a better life experience program accounts
17 include conducting or causing to be conducted, the activities of
18 trade instruction, settlement activities, and direction of cash
19 movement and related wire transfers with the custodian bank and
20 outside investment firms.

21 (iv) The governing board has sole responsibility for contracting
22 with any recordkeepers for individual Washington achieving a better
23 life experience program accounts and shall manage the performance of
24 recordkeepers under those contracts.

25 (v) The (~~state investment~~) governing board has sole
26 responsibility for contracting with outside investment firms to
27 provide investment management for the individual Washington achieving
28 a better life experience program accounts and shall manage the
29 performance of investment managers under those contracts.

30 (~~(vi) The department has sole responsibility for contracting
31 with any recordkeepers for individual participant accounts and shall
32 manage the performance of recordkeepers under those contracts.~~)

33 (d) The (~~state treasurer~~) governing board shall designate and
34 define the terms of engagement for the custodial banks.

35 (3) All investments made by the state investment board must be
36 made with the exercise of that degree of judgment and care pursuant
37 to RCW 43.33A.140 and the investment policy established by the state
38 investment board.

1 (4) As deemed appropriate by the state investment board, money in
2 the account may be commingled for investment with other funds subject
3 to investment by the state investment board.

4 (5) The authority to establish all policies relating to the
5 account(~~(, other than the investment policies,)~~) resides with the
6 governing board acting to implement, design, and manage the
7 Washington achieving a better life experience savings program that
8 allows eligible individuals to create and maintain savings accounts.
9 The moneys in the account may be spent only for the purposes of the
10 Washington achieving a better life experience program.

11 (6) The (~~state investment board~~) investment manager shall
12 routinely consult and communicate with the governing board on the
13 investment policy, earnings of the account, and related needs of the
14 program.

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