
HOUSE BILL 2832

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Kilduff, Stambaugh, Tarleton, Haler, Orwall, Graves, Kagi, Hudgins, Appleton, Doglio, Pollet, Gregerson, and Santos

Read first time 01/17/18. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring the passport to college promise
2 program is available to certain populations of foster youth; and
3 amending RCW 28B.117.020, 28B.117.030, and 28B.117.040.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.117.020 and 2012 c 163 s 3 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Cost of attendance" means the cost associated with attending
10 a particular institution of higher education as determined by the
11 office, including but not limited to tuition, fees, room, board,
12 books, personal expenses, and transportation, plus the cost of
13 reasonable additional expenses incurred by an eligible student and
14 approved by a financial aid administrator at the student's school of
15 attendance.

16 (2) "Federal foster care system" means the foster care program
17 under the federal unaccompanied refugee minors program, Title 8
18 U.S.C. Sec. 1522 of the immigration and nationality act.

19 (3) "Financial need" means the difference between a student's
20 cost of attendance and the student's total family contribution as

1 determined by the method prescribed by the United States department
2 of education.

3 ~~((+3))~~ (4) "Independent college or university" means a private,
4 nonprofit institution of higher education, open to residents of the
5 state, providing programs of education beyond the high school level
6 leading to at least the baccalaureate degree, and accredited by the
7 Northwest association of schools and colleges, and other institutions
8 as may be developed that are approved by the ~~((board))~~ Washington
9 student achievement council as meeting equivalent standards as those
10 institutions accredited under this section.

11 ~~((+4))~~ (5) "Institution of higher education" means any
12 institution eligible to and participating in the state need grant
13 program.

14 ~~((+5))~~ (6) "Office" means the office of student financial
15 assistance.

16 ~~((+6))~~ (7) "Program" means the passport to college promise
17 program created in this chapter.

18 (8) "State foster care system" means the Washington state foster
19 care system and includes the placement of dependents from other
20 states who are placed in Washington pursuant to orders issued under
21 the interstate compact on the placement of children, chapter 26.34
22 RCW.

23 (9) "Tribal court" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
24 13.38.040.

25 (10) "Tribal foster care system" means an out-of-home placement
26 under a dependency order from a tribal court.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.117.030 and 2013 c 182 s 8 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) The office shall design and, to the extent funds are
30 appropriated for this purpose, implement, a program of supplemental
31 scholarship and student assistance for students who have emancipated
32 from the state foster care system, the federal foster care system, or
33 a tribal foster care system after having spent at least one year in
34 care.

35 (2) The office shall convene and consult with an advisory
36 committee to assist with program design and implementation. The
37 committee shall include but not be limited to former foster care
38 youth and their advocates; representatives from the state board for
39 community and technical colleges, and from public and private

1 agencies that assist current and former foster care recipients in
2 their transition to adulthood; and student support specialists from
3 public and private colleges and universities.

4 (3) To the extent that sufficient funds have been appropriated
5 for this purpose, a student is eligible for assistance under this
6 section if he or she:

7 (a) Spent at least one year in the state, federal, or tribal
8 foster care system subsequent to his or her sixteenth birthday;

9 (b) Meets one of the following three requirements:

10 (i) Emancipated from the state, federal, or tribal foster care
11 system on or after January 1, 2007;

12 (ii) Enrolls in extended foster care; or

13 (iii) Achieves a permanent plan after age seventeen and one-half
14 years;

15 (c) Is a resident student, as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2);

16 (d) Is enrolled with or will enroll on at least a half-time basis
17 with an institution of higher education in Washington state by the
18 age of twenty-one;

19 (e) Is making satisfactory academic progress toward the
20 completion of a degree or certificate program, if receiving
21 supplemental scholarship assistance;

22 (f) Has not earned a bachelor's or professional degree; and

23 (g) Is not pursuing a degree in theology.

24 (4) A passport to college scholarship under this section:

25 (a) Shall not exceed resident undergraduate tuition and fees at
26 the highest-priced public institution of higher education in the
27 state; and

28 (b) Shall not exceed the student's financial need, less a
29 reasonable self-help amount defined by the office, when combined with
30 all other public and private grant, scholarship, and waiver
31 assistance the student receives.

32 (5) An eligible student may receive a passport to college
33 scholarship under this section for a maximum of five years after the
34 student first enrolls with an institution of higher education or
35 until the student turns age twenty-six, whichever occurs first. If a
36 student turns age twenty-six during an academic year, and would
37 otherwise be eligible for a scholarship under this section, the
38 student shall continue to be eligible for a scholarship for the
39 remainder of the academic year.

1 (6) The office, in consultation with and with assistance from the
2 state board for community and technical colleges, shall perform an
3 annual analysis to verify that those institutions of higher education
4 at which students have received a scholarship under this section have
5 awarded the student all available need-based and merit-based grant
6 and scholarship aid for which the student qualifies.

7 (7) In designing and implementing the passport to college student
8 support program under this section, the office, in consultation with
9 and with assistance from the state board for community and technical
10 colleges, shall ensure that a participating college or university:

11 (a) Has a viable plan for identifying students eligible for
12 assistance under this section, for tracking and enhancing their
13 academic progress, for addressing their unique needs for assistance
14 during school vacations and academic interims, and for linking them
15 to appropriate sources of assistance in their transition to
16 adulthood;

17 (b) Receives financial and other incentives for achieving
18 measurable progress in the recruitment, retention, and graduation of
19 eligible students.

20 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.117.040 and 2012 c 163 s 4 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 Effective operation of the passport to college promise program
23 requires early and accurate identification of former foster care
24 youth so that they can be linked to the financial and other
25 assistance that will help them succeed in college. To that end:

26 (1) All institutions of higher education that receive funding for
27 student support services under RCW 28B.117.030 shall include on their
28 applications for admission or on their registration materials a
29 question asking whether the applicant has been in state, federal, or
30 tribal foster care (~~(in Washington state)~~) for at least one year
31 since his or her sixteenth birthday together with an explanation that
32 financial and support services may be available. All other
33 institutions of higher education are strongly encouraged to include
34 such a question and explanation. No institution may consider whether
35 an applicant may be eligible for a scholarship or student support
36 services under this chapter when deciding whether the applicant will
37 be granted admission.

38 (2) The department of social and health services shall devise and
39 implement procedures for efficiently, promptly, and accurately

1 identifying students and applicants who are eligible for services
2 under RCW 28B.117.030, and for sharing that information with the
3 office and with institutions of higher education. The procedures
4 shall include appropriate safeguards for consent by the applicant or
5 student before disclosure.

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