
SENATE BILL 6263

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker, Palumbo, Darneille, Keiser, Lias, Frockt, Kuderer, Hasegawa, and Conway

Read first time 01/11/18. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the passport to college promise
2 program to include youth experiencing homelessness and foster youth
3 thirteen and older; and amending RCW 28B.117.010, 28B.117.030, and
4 28B.117.040.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.117.010 and 2012 c 163 s 2 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 The passport to college promise program is created. The purpose
9 of the program is:

10 (1) To encourage current and former foster care youth and youth
11 experiencing homelessness to prepare for, attend, and successfully
12 complete higher education;

13 (2) To improve the high school graduation outcomes of foster
14 youth through coordinated P-20 and child welfare outreach,
15 intervention, and planning; and

16 (3) To improve postsecondary outcomes by providing current and
17 former foster care youth and youth experiencing homelessness with the
18 educational planning, information, institutional support, and direct
19 financial resources necessary for them to succeed in higher
20 education.

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

3 (1) The office shall design and, to the extent funds are
4 appropriated for this purpose, implement, a program of supplemental
5 scholarship and student assistance for students who have emancipated
6 from the state, tribal, or federal foster care systems and from the
7 jurisdiction of the interstate compact on the placement of children
8 after having spent at least one (~~year~~) day in care and youth who
9 have experienced homelessness for at least one day.

10 (2) The office shall convene and consult with an advisory
11 committee to assist with program design and implementation. The
12 committee shall include but not be limited to former foster care and
13 homeless youth and their advocates; representatives from the state
14 board for community and technical colleges, and from public and
15 private agencies that assist current and former foster care
16 recipients and youth experiencing homelessness in their transition to
17 adulthood; and student support specialists from public and private
18 colleges and universities.

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

22 (a) Spent at least one (~~year~~) day in foster care subsequent to
23 his or her (~~sixteenth~~) thirteenth birthday;

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

25 (i) Emancipated from foster care on or after January 1, 2007;

26 (ii) Enrolls in extended foster care; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (4) To the extent that sufficient funds have been appropriated
39 for this purpose, a student is eligible for assistance under this
40 section if the student:

1 (a) Spent at least one day experiencing homelessness subsequent
2 to the student's thirteenth birthday; and

3 (b) Meets all the requirements in subsection (3)(c) through (g)
4 of this section.

5 (5) A passport to college scholarship under this section:

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

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

13 ~~((5))~~ (6) An eligible student may receive a passport to college
14 scholarship under this section for a maximum of five years after the
15 student first enrolls with an institution of higher education or
16 until the student turns age twenty-six, whichever occurs first. If a
17 student turns age twenty-six during an academic year, and would
18 otherwise be eligible for a scholarship under this section, the
19 student shall continue to be eligible for a scholarship for the
20 remainder of the academic year.

21 ~~((6))~~ (7) The office, in consultation with and with assistance
22 from the state board for community and technical colleges, shall
23 perform an annual analysis to verify that those institutions of
24 higher education at which students have received a scholarship under
25 this section have awarded the student all available need-based and
26 merit-based grant and scholarship aid for which the student
27 qualifies.

28 ~~((7))~~ (8) In designing and implementing the passport to college
29 student support program under this section, the office, in
30 consultation with and with assistance from the state board for
31 community and technical colleges, shall ensure that a participating
32 college or university:

33 (a) Has a viable plan for identifying students eligible for
34 assistance under this section, for tracking and enhancing their
35 academic progress, for addressing their unique needs for assistance
36 during school vacations and academic interims, and for linking them
37 to appropriate sources of assistance in their transition to
38 adulthood;

1 (b) Receives financial and other incentives for achieving
2 measurable progress in the recruitment, retention, and graduation of
3 eligible students.

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

6 Effective operation of the passport to college promise program
7 requires early and accurate identification of former foster care
8 youth and youth experiencing homelessness so that they can be linked
9 to the financial and other assistance that will help them succeed in
10 college. To that end:

11 (1) All institutions of higher education that receive funding for
12 student support services under RCW 28B.117.030 shall include on their
13 applications for admission or on their registration materials a
14 question asking whether the applicant has been in foster care in
15 Washington state for at least one (~~year~~) day or experienced
16 homelessness for at least one day since his or her (~~sixteenth~~)
17 thirteenth birthday together with an explanation that financial and
18 support services may be available. All other institutions of higher
19 education are strongly encouraged to include such a question and
20 explanation. No institution may consider whether an applicant may be
21 eligible for a scholarship or student support services under this
22 chapter when deciding whether the applicant will be granted
23 admission.

24 (2) The department of social and health services shall devise and
25 implement procedures for efficiently, promptly, and accurately
26 identifying students and applicants who are eligible for services
27 under RCW 28B.117.030, and for sharing that information with the
28 office and with institutions of higher education. The procedures
29 shall include appropriate safeguards for consent by the applicant or
30 student before disclosure.

31 (3) The office of homeless youth shall devise and implement
32 procedures for efficiently, promptly, and accurately identifying
33 students and applicants who are eligible for services under RCW
34 28B.117.030, and for sharing that information with the office and
35 with institutions of higher education. The procedures shall include
36 appropriate safeguards for consent by the applicant or student before
37 disclosure.

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