
SENATE BILL 6274

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker, Palumbo, Keiser, Wellman, Darneille, Lias, Kuderer, Hasegawa, Hunt, and Saldaña

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

1 AN ACT Relating to helping former foster youth and youth
2 experiencing homelessness access and complete registered
3 apprenticeships; and adding a new chapter to Title 28C RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The legislature finds that in 2007
6 with creation of the passport to college promise program, this state
7 took a significant step toward providing higher education
8 opportunities to youth in and alumni of foster care. The passport to
9 college promise program not only provides financial aid to former
10 foster youth but, just as important, it recognizes the critical role
11 of wraparound services and provides early outreach to foster care
12 youth regarding postsecondary higher educational opportunities. Since
13 2007, the passport to college promise program has increased the
14 number of former foster youth enrolling in higher education and
15 working toward college degrees.

16 (b) Recognizing the success of creating pathways for foster youth
17 to access higher education, the legislature now seeks to create an
18 additional postsecondary option through access to registered
19 apprenticeships. Former foster and homeless youth face critical
20 hurdles to accessing apprenticeships. The first is a lack of
21 information regarding preparation for and enrolling in

1 apprenticeships. The second is finding the financial resources to
2 begin and continue in an apprenticeship. As a result of the unique
3 hurdles and challenges that face youth in and alumni of foster care
4 and homeless and former homeless youth, a disproportionate number of
5 them are part of society's large group of marginalized youth.

6 (c) The legislature reiterates its earlier recognition of the
7 critical role education plays in improving outcomes for youth in and
8 alumni of foster care and homeless and former homeless youth, as well
9 as the key role played by wraparound services in providing continuity
10 and seamless transitions to postsecondary credential programs. With
11 the creation of a parallel passport for registered apprenticeships,
12 including wraparound services, the legislature strives to make
13 Washington the leader in the nation with respect to foster and
14 homeless youth graduating from high school and enrolling in and
15 achieving a postsecondary credential.

16 (2) The legislature intends to create the passport to
17 apprenticeship opportunities program. The program will have two
18 primary components:

19 (a) Significantly increasing outreach to foster and homeless
20 youth between the ages of thirteen and eighteen regarding the
21 registered apprenticeship opportunities available to them and how to
22 apply; and

23 (b) Providing financial assistance to former foster and homeless
24 youth to meet registered apprenticeship entrance requirements and
25 occupational-specific costs, and providing supportive services to
26 help them register for and complete an apprenticeship.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
28 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
29 otherwise.

30 (1) "Apprentice" means a person enrolled in a state-approved or
31 reciprocally recognized apprenticeship program.

32 (2) "Apprenticeship" means an apprenticeship training program
33 approved or recognized by the state apprenticeship and training
34 council.

35 (3) "Department" means the employment security department.

36 (4) "Occupational-specific costs" means the costs associated with
37 entering an apprenticeship, including but not limited to, fees,
38 tuition for classes, work clothes, rain gear, boots, occupation-

1 specific tools, plus the costs of reasonable transportation expenses
2 incurred by an apprentice.

3 (5) "Preapprentice" means a person enrolled in a state-approved
4 or reciprocally recognized preapprenticeship training program.

5 (6) "Preapprenticeship" means a preapprenticeship training
6 program approved or recognized by the state apprenticeship and
7 training council.

8 (7) "Program" means the passport to apprenticeship opportunities
9 program created in this chapter.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The passport to apprenticeship
11 opportunities program is created. The purpose of the program is to:

12 (1) Encourage current and former foster youth and youth
13 experiencing homelessness to prepare for, enroll in, and successfully
14 complete an apprenticeship; and

15 (2) Provide current and former foster youth and youth
16 experiencing homelessness with the planning, information,
17 institutional support, and direct financial resources necessary for
18 them to succeed in a preapprenticeship or apprenticeship.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The department shall design and, to
20 the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, implement, a
21 program of assistance for residents who emancipated from the state
22 foster care system after having spent at least one day in care or who
23 experienced homelessness for one day between the ages of thirteen and
24 eighteen.

25 (2) The department shall convene and consult with an advisory
26 committee to assist with program design and implementation. The
27 committee shall include but not be limited to former foster and
28 homeless youth and their advocates, public and private agencies that
29 assist current and former foster youth in their transition to
30 adulthood, the state board for community and technical colleges, the
31 state workforce training and education coordinating board, and the
32 state apprenticeship and training council.

33 (3) To the extent that funds have been appropriated for this
34 purpose, an applicant is eligible for assistance under this section
35 if the applicant:

36 (a) Emancipated from foster care on or after January 1, 2018,
37 after having spent at least one day in foster care subsequent to the
38 applicant's thirteenth birthday, or who experienced homelessness for

1 at least one day after age thirteen and prior to the applicant's
2 eighteenth birthday;

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

4 (c) Is registered with or will register on at least a half-time
5 basis with an apprenticeship or preapprenticeship in Washington state
6 by the age of twenty-one; and

7 (d) Is making satisfactory progress toward the completion of an
8 apprenticeship or preapprenticeship, if receiving financial
9 assistance as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

10 (4) An eligible applicant may receive financial assistance
11 through the program for a maximum of six years after first enrolling
12 with a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship or until the
13 applicant turns age twenty-six, whichever occurs first.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) To the extent funds are appropriated
15 for this purpose, the department, with input from the state
16 apprenticeship and training council and the department of labor and
17 industries, shall contract through a request for proposals process
18 with at least one nongovernmental entity with each of the following
19 specialties:

20 (a) Education coordination for youth who are dependent pursuant
21 to chapter 13.34 RCW, birth to twelfth grade in Washington state,
22 with demonstrated success in working with foster care youth and
23 assisting foster care youth in receiving appropriate educational
24 services, including enrollment, accessing school-based services,
25 reducing out-of-school discipline interventions, and attaining high
26 school graduation; and

27 (b) Providing quality training, employment navigation, and
28 supportive services to disadvantaged populations seeking to complete
29 apprenticeships and preapprenticeships.

30 (2) The nongovernmental entity or entities selected under
31 subsection (1)(a) of this section must engage in a public-private
32 partnership with the department and are responsible for raising a
33 portion of the funds needed for service delivery, administration, and
34 evaluation.

35 (3) The nongovernmental entity or entities selected under
36 subsection (1)(b) of this section shall provide supportive services
37 to apprentices and preapprentices, and disburse the state financial
38 assistance in section 4 of this act to meet apprenticeship and

1 preapprenticeship entrance requirements and occupational-specific
2 costs.

3 (4) The nongovernmental entities selected under subsection (1) of
4 this section shall:

5 (a) Coordinate together to provide transition planning to foster
6 and homeless youth in Washington state beginning at age thirteen that
7 includes:

8 (i) Comprehensive information regarding postsecondary
9 apprenticeship and preapprenticeship opportunities including, but not
10 limited to, transportation, housing, and other logistical
11 considerations;

12 (ii) How and when to apply to registered apprenticeships and
13 recognized preapprenticeships;

14 (iii) What courses to take to prepare the particular youth to
15 succeed at their postsecondary plans; and

16 (iv) Social, community, educational, logistical, and other issues
17 that frequently impact apprentices and their success rates; and

18 (b) Coordinate their outreach efforts with the private agency
19 performing outreach for the passport to college promise program under
20 chapter 28B.117 RCW.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Effective operation of the passport to
22 apprenticeship opportunities program requires early and accurate
23 identification of former foster and homeless youth so that they can
24 be linked to the financial and other assistance that will help them
25 succeed in an apprenticeship. The department of social and health
26 services and department of commerce shall devise and implement
27 procedures for efficiently, promptly, and accurately identifying
28 applicants who are eligible for services under section 4 of this act,
29 and for sharing that information with the department. The procedures
30 shall include appropriate safeguards for consent by the applicant
31 before disclosure.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) To the extent funds are appropriated
33 for this purpose, the department, with input from the state
34 apprenticeship and training council and the foster care partnership,
35 shall develop and maintain an internet web site and outreach program
36 to serve as a comprehensive portal for foster and homeless youth in
37 Washington state to obtain information regarding apprenticeships and
38 preapprenticeships including, but not necessarily limited to:

1 (a) Academic, social, family, financial, and logistical
2 information important to successful application and completion of an
3 apprenticeship;

4 (b) How and when to obtain and complete apprenticeship
5 applications;

6 (c) What academic subject matter prerequisites, if any, are
7 generally required for acceptance to an apprenticeship; and

8 (d) Detailed sources of assistance likely available to eligible
9 former foster and homeless youth, including the aid provided by this
10 chapter.

11 (2) The department shall determine whether to design, build, and
12 operate the outreach program and web site directly or to use,
13 support, and modify existing web sites created by government or
14 nongovernmental entities for a similar purpose.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The legislature strongly recommends that
16 the entities selected in section 5 of this act, the entities with
17 which the department of social and health services contracts or
18 collaborates to provide educational support services and educational
19 outcomes for students who are dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW, and
20 the private agency performing outreach for the passport to college
21 promise program under chapter 28B.117 RCW, coordinate on
22 technological models to keep in constant touch with the students they
23 serve and keep these students engaged.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act may be known and cited as the
25 passport to apprenticeship opportunities act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act
27 constitute a new chapter in Title 28C RCW.

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