

**SHB 1425 - S AMD 547**  
By Senator Liiias

**ADOPTED 04/03/2021**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that higher  
4 education is pivotal in delivering training to Washington citizens at  
5 all stages of their careers and ages. A skilled workforce increases  
6 productivity, boosts outputs, and propels growth in Washington's  
7 economy. The legislature further finds that a well-trained, highly  
8 skilled workforce provides Washington citizens with greater  
9 opportunities and skill sets to efficiently and confidently meet the  
10 changing demands of a transforming economy. Furthermore, a STEM-based  
11 education provides Washington's citizens with real-world applications  
12 to develop a variety of skill sets needed in today's global economy.

13 The legislature further finds that the Washington state  
14 opportunity scholarship is an innovative public private partnership  
15 that has been successful building a qualified workforce to fill  
16 Washington's high-demand STEM, health care, and trade industries. The  
17 Washington state opportunity scholarship has successfully created  
18 opportunities for communities historically left out of higher  
19 education and STEM, including women, students of color, and first-  
20 generation college students. In addition, the Washington state  
21 opportunity scholarship has been shown to change communities by  
22 breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

23 The legislature also finds that higher education is a key driver  
24 of individual growth and prosperity, and is an effective way to  
25 bridge societal inequities that disproportionately afflict low-income  
26 communities and communities of color. The legislature further finds  
27 that these gaps will be further widened in the current global  
28 pandemic, which will exacerbate long-term impacts on these  
29 communities in intergenerational poverty, job attainment, job  
30 stability, and wage growth.

31 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to amend the  
32 existing Washington state opportunity scholarship program to

1 eliminate false barriers for students eligible for the scholarship  
2 and provide additional educational opportunities for Washington's  
3 citizens. This legislative intent is particularly urgent during the  
4 global pandemic where additional skills and opportunities will be  
5 vital for Washington citizens as the state moves toward recovery from  
6 the current global pandemic.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.145.010 and 2019 c 406 s 63 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
10 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

11 (1) "Board" means the opportunity scholarship board.

12 (2) "Council" means the student achievement council.

13 (3) "Eligible advanced degree program" means a health  
14 professional degree program beyond the baccalaureate level and  
15 includes graduate and professional degree programs.

16 (4) "Eligible county" has the same meaning as "rural county" as  
17 defined in RCW 82.14.370 and also includes any county that shares a  
18 common border with Canada and has a population of over one hundred  
19 twenty-five thousand.

20 (5) "Eligible education programs" means high employer demand and  
21 other programs of study as determined by the board.

22 (6) "Eligible expenses" means reasonable expenses associated with  
23 the costs of acquiring an education such as tuition, books,  
24 equipment, fees, room and board, and other expenses as determined by  
25 the program administrator in consultation with the council and the  
26 state board for community and technical colleges.

27 (7) "Eligible school district" means a school district of the  
28 second class as identified in RCW 28A.300.065(2).

29 (8) "Eligible student" means a resident student who (~~received~~  
30 ~~his or her high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate~~  
31 ~~as provided in RCW 28B.50.536 in Washington and who~~):

32 (a) (i) (~~Has~~) Received his or her high school diploma or high  
33 school equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536 in  
34 Washington and has been accepted at a four-year institution of higher  
35 education into an eligible education program leading to a  
36 baccalaureate degree;

37 (ii) (~~Will~~) Received his or her high school diploma or high  
38 school equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536 in  
39 Washington and will attend a two-year institution of higher education

1 and intends to transfer to an eligible education program at a four-  
2 year institution of higher education;

3 (iii) ~~((Has))~~ Received his or her high school diploma or  
4 equivalent and has been accepted at an institution of higher  
5 education into a professional-technical certificate or degree program  
6 in an eligible education program; or

7 ~~(iv) ((Has been accepted at an institution of higher education~~  
8 ~~into a professional-technical certificate program in an eligible~~  
9 ~~education program; or~~

10 ~~(v))~~ Has been accepted at an institution of higher education  
11 into an eligible advanced degree program that leads to credentials in  
12 health professions;

13 (b) Declares an intention to obtain a professional-technical  
14 certificate, professional-technical degree, baccalaureate degree, or  
15 an advanced degree; and

16 (c) Has a family income at or below one hundred twenty-five  
17 percent of the state median family income at the time the student  
18 applies for an opportunity scholarship.

19 (9) "Gift aid" means financial aid received from the federal Pell  
20 grant, the Washington college grant program in chapter 28B.92 RCW,  
21 the college bound scholarship program in chapter 28B.118 RCW, the  
22 opportunity grant program in chapter 28B.50 RCW, or any other state  
23 grant, scholarship, or worker retraining program that provides funds  
24 for educational purposes with no obligation of repayment. "Gift aid"  
25 does not include student loans, work-study programs, the basic food  
26 employment and training program administered by the department of  
27 social and health services, or other employment assistance programs  
28 that provide job readiness opportunities and support beyond the costs  
29 of tuition, books, and fees.

30 (10) "High employer demand program of study" has the same meaning  
31 as provided in RCW 28B.50.030.

32 (11) "Participant" means an eligible student who has received a  
33 scholarship under the opportunity scholarship program.

34 (12) "Private sources," "private funds," "private contributions,"  
35 or "private sector contributions" means donations from private  
36 organizations, corporations, federally recognized Indian tribes,  
37 municipalities, counties, and other sources, but excludes state  
38 dollars.

39 (13) "Professional-technical certificate" means a program as  
40 approved by the state board for community and technical colleges

1 under RCW 28B.50.090(7)(c), that is offered by an institution of  
2 higher education.

3 (14) "Professional-technical degree" means a program as approved  
4 by the state board for community and technical colleges under RCW  
5 28B.50.090(7)(c), that is offered by an institution of higher  
6 education.

7 (15) "Program administrator" means a private nonprofit  
8 corporation registered under Title 24 RCW and qualified as a tax-  
9 exempt entity under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue  
10 code.

11 (16) "Resident student" has the same meaning as provided in RCW  
12 28B.15.012.

13 (17) "Rural jobs program" means the rural county high employer  
14 demand jobs program created in this chapter.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.145.100 and 2018 c 254 s 4 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1)(a) The rural county high employer demand jobs program is  
18 created to meet the workforce needs of business and industry in rural  
19 counties by assisting students in earning certificates, associate  
20 degrees, or other industry-recognized credentials necessary for  
21 employment in high employer demand fields.

22 (b) Subject to the requirements of this section, the rural jobs  
23 program provides selected students scholarship funds and support  
24 services, as determined by the board, to help students meet their  
25 eligible expenses when they enroll in a community or technical  
26 college program that prepares them for high employer demand fields.

27 (c) The source of funds for the rural jobs program shall be a  
28 combination of private donations, grants, and contributions and state  
29 matching funds.

30 (2) The program administrator has the duties and responsibilities  
31 provided under this section, including but not limited to:

32 (a) (~~Publicizing~~) Publicize the rural jobs program and  
33 conducting outreach to eligible counties;

34 (b) In consultation with the state board for community and  
35 technical colleges, any interested community or technical college  
36 located in an eligible county, and the county's workforce development  
37 council, identify high employer demand fields within the eligible  
38 counties. When identifying high employer demand fields, the board  
39 must consider:

1 (i) County-specific employer demand reports issued by the  
2 employment security department or the list of statewide high-demand  
3 programs for secondary career and technical education established  
4 under RCW 28A.700.020; and

5 (ii) The ability and capacity of the community and technical  
6 college to meet the needs of qualifying students and industry in the  
7 eligible county;

8 (c) Develop and implement an application, selection, and  
9 notification process for awarding rural jobs program scholarship  
10 funds. In making determinations on scholarship recipients, the board  
11 shall use county-specific employer high-demand data;

12 (d) Determine the annual scholarship fund amounts to be awarded  
13 to selected students;

14 (e) Distribute funds to selected students;

15 (f) Notify institutions of higher education of the rural jobs  
16 program recipients who will attend their institutions of higher  
17 education and inform them of the scholarship fund amounts and terms  
18 of the awards; and

19 (g) Establish and manage an account as provided under RCW  
20 28B.145.110 to receive donations, grants, contributions from private  
21 sources, and state matching funds, and from which to disburse  
22 scholarship funds to selected students.

23 (3) To be eligible for scholarship funds under the rural jobs  
24 program, a student must:

25 (a) Either:

26 (i) Be a resident of an eligible county and be enrolled in a  
27 community or technical college established under chapter 28B.50 RCW;  
28 or ((have))

29 (ii) Have attended and graduated from a school in an eligible  
30 school district and be enrolled in a community or technical college  
31 established under chapter 28B.50 RCW that is located in an eligible  
32 county;

33 (b) Be a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012;

34 ~~(c) ((Be enrolled in a community or technical college established~~  
35 ~~under chapter 28B.50 RCW located in an eligible county;~~

36 ~~(d))~~ Be in a certificate, degree, or other industry-recognized  
37 credential or training program that has been identified by the board  
38 as a program that prepares students for a high employer demand field;

1       (~~(e)~~) (d) Have a family income that does not exceed seventy  
2 percent of the state median family income adjusted for family size;  
3 and

4       (~~(f)~~) (e) Demonstrate financial need according to the free  
5 application for federal student aid or the Washington application for  
6 state financial aid.

7       (4) To remain eligible for scholarship funds under the rural jobs  
8 program, the student must maintain a cumulative grade point average  
9 of 2.0.

10       (5) A scholarship award under the rural jobs program may not  
11 result in a reduction of any gift aid. Nothing in this section  
12 creates any right or entitlement.

13       **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.145.120 and 2018 c 254 s 6 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15       (1) The rural jobs program match transfer account is created in  
16 the custody of the state treasurer as a nonappropriated account to be  
17 used solely and exclusively for the rural jobs program created in RCW  
18 28B.145.100. The purpose of the rural jobs program match transfer  
19 account is to provide state matching funds for the rural jobs  
20 program.

21       (2) Revenues to the rural jobs program match transfer account  
22 shall consist of appropriations by the legislature into the rural  
23 jobs program match transfer account.

24       (3) No expenditures from the rural jobs program match transfer  
25 account may be made except upon receipt of proof, by the executive  
26 director of the council from the program administrator, of private  
27 contributions to the rural jobs program. Expenditures, in the form of  
28 matching funds, may not exceed the total amount of private  
29 contributions.

30       (4) Only the executive director of the council or the executive  
31 director's designee may authorize expenditures from the rural jobs  
32 program match transfer account. Such authorization must be made as  
33 soon as practicable following receipt of proof as required under this  
34 section.

35       (5)(a) The council shall enter into an appropriate agreement with  
36 the program administrator to demonstrate exchange of consideration  
37 for the matching funds.

38       (b) Once moneys in the rural jobs program match transfer account  
39 are subject to an agreement under this subsection and are deposited

1 in the student support pathways account, the state acts in a  
2 fiduciary rather than ownership capacity with regard to those assets.  
3 Assets in the student support pathways account are not considered  
4 state money, common cash, or revenue to the state.

5 (6) The state match must not exceed one million dollars in a  
6 single fiscal biennium and must be based on donations and pledges  
7 received by the rural jobs program as of the date each official state  
8 caseload forecast is submitted by the caseload forecast council to  
9 the legislative fiscal committees, as provided under RCW 43.88C.020.  
10 Nothing in this section expands or modifies the responsibilities of  
11 the caseload forecast council. The purpose of this subsection (6) is  
12 to ensure the predictable treatment of the program in the budget  
13 process by clarifying the calculation process of the state match  
14 required by this section and ensuring that the program is budgeted at  
15 maintenance level."

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16 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "students;" strike the  
17 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28B.145.010,  
18 28B.145.100, and 28B.145.120; and creating a new section."

EFFECT: Requires that the state match for the rural jobs program  
be budgeted at maintenance level.

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