

2SHB 1835 - S AMD 1415

By Senator Randall

ADOPTED 03/04/2022

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that, in 2020,
4 Washington ranked 49th nationally for completion of the free
5 application for federal student aid among high school seniors. The
6 free application for federal student aid is the form that prospective
7 and current postsecondary education students use to receive federal
8 and state financial aid, such as the federal Pell grant, the
9 Washington college grant, the college bound scholarship, the
10 opportunity scholarship, federal student loans, and many other
11 financial resources for college. For students who cannot file a free
12 application for federal student aid, the state has an alternative
13 financial aid application called the Washington application for state
14 financial aid. The free application for federal student aid is a
15 strong indicator for college enrollment. Ninety-two percent of high
16 school seniors who completed the free application for federal student
17 aid enrolled in a postsecondary institution by the November following
18 graduation versus 51 percent of students who did not complete a free
19 application for federal student aid. In addition, the legislature
20 recognizes that the pandemic has exacerbated equity gaps in college
21 access as colleges and universities are experiencing decreases in
22 enrollments among low-income students, despite having one of the
23 largest and most generous need-based financial aid programs in the
24 country. The legislature recognizes that the Washington college grant
25 program established in chapter 28B.92 RCW, which education trust
26 called "the most equity-focused free college program in the country"
27 is a critical tool to address these equity gaps and help students
28 enter college and apprenticeships. Therefore, it is the legislature's
29 intent to establish an outreach initiative for the Washington college
30 grant and an outreach and completion initiative for the free
31 application for federal student aid and Washington application for
32 state financial aid to help students succeed.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.77
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this specific
4 purpose, the student achievement council shall conduct a statewide
5 marketing campaign to increase awareness of the Washington college
6 grant program established in chapter 28B.92 RCW. The student
7 achievement council shall issue a request for proposal for hiring a
8 marketing firm that will produce high quality advertisements to
9 promote the state's largest financial aid program. Advertisements
10 should be marketed towards potential postsecondary students and their
11 parents with the goal of increasing awareness of the Washington
12 college grant program to further the state's educational attainment
13 goals. The advertisements may include television commercials,
14 billboards, advertisements on public transit, paid internet search
15 advertisements, and social media marketing.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this specific
19 purpose, the college board shall administer a free application for
20 federal student aid and Washington application for state financial
21 aid outreach and completion initiative pilot program.

22 (1) The college board shall select community or technical
23 colleges to participate in the pilot program. The colleges selected
24 to participate must each be located within educational service
25 districts that are in the bottom two for free application for federal
26 student aid completion rates when combining their respective school
27 districts' free application for federal student aid completion rates
28 over the past three completed academic years prior to the effective
29 date of this section. Colleges selected to participate shall employ
30 outreach specialists to work directly with the high schools located
31 in the corresponding educational service district. It is the
32 legislature's intent that the outreach specialists be employed at a
33 ratio of one to 600 high school seniors within the corresponding
34 educational service district. The outreach specialists shall make
35 significant contact with high school students and their families for
36 the purpose of increasing free application for federal student aid
37 and Washington application for state financial aid completion rates.
38 The outreach specialists shall use the free application for federal
39 student aid and Washington application for state financial aid data

1 maintained by the student achievement council to conduct targeted
2 outreach and free application for federal student aid and Washington
3 application for state financial aid completion assistance to high
4 school seniors. The outreach specialists shall also provide
5 information on how to access private scholarships. The outreach
6 specialists shall conduct other outreach as appropriate, including
7 virtual or in-person presentations with students and families,
8 announcements on school intercoms and social media channels, outreach
9 to recent high school graduates as peer messengers, and events at
10 school college or career fairs.

11 (2) The college board shall report annually to the appropriate
12 committees of the legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036
13 beginning December 1, 2023, on the free application for federal
14 student aid and Washington application for state financial aid
15 outreach and completion initiative pilot program. The report must
16 include details on how the colleges selected used the funding and how
17 the initiatives worked to increase free application for federal
18 student aid and Washington application for state financial aid
19 completion rates. The report must also include before and after free
20 application for federal student aid and Washington application for
21 state financial aid completion data and specific details about the
22 number of high school students assisted in completing the free
23 application for federal student aid and Washington application for
24 state financial aid.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Subject to availability of amounts
26 appropriated for this specific purpose, the state library shall
27 administer a grant pilot program with the purpose of increasing free
28 application for federal student aid and Washington application for
29 state financial aid completion rates.

30 (2) The state library shall administer grants to local public
31 libraries located within educational service districts that are in
32 the bottom two for free application for federal student aid
33 completion rates when combining their respective school districts'
34 free application for federal student aid completion rates over the
35 past three completed academic years prior to the effective date of
36 this section. The state library shall, as a condition of the grant
37 pilot program, require local public libraries to partner with
38 community-based organizations including, where appropriate,
39 organizations with proven track records of working with historically

1 underrepresented populations, to increase free application for
2 federal student aid and Washington application for state financial
3 aid completion. The organization or organizations selected shall:

4 (a) Be embedded in their respective community and have a strong
5 foundation of trust among members of the community; and

6 (b) Be committed to working directly with individual members of
7 their community to assist with one-on-one free application for
8 federal student aid and Washington application for state financial
9 aid completion and to provide information on how to access private
10 scholarships.

11 (3) The state library shall report annually to the appropriate
12 committees of the legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036
13 beginning December 1, 2023, on the progress of the library outreach
14 pilot project to boost free application for federal student aid and
15 Washington application for state financial aid completion rates. The
16 report must include the specific number of students that were
17 assisted through the grant pilot program.

18 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.92.200 and 2019 c 406 s 19 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The Washington college grant program is created to provide a
21 statewide free college program for eligible participants and greater
22 access to postsecondary education for Washington residents. The
23 Washington college grant program is intended to increase the number
24 of high school graduates and adults that can attain a postsecondary
25 credential and provide them with the qualifications needed to compete
26 for job opportunities in Washington.

27 (2) The office shall implement and administer the Washington
28 college grant program and is authorized to establish rules necessary
29 for implementation of the program.

30 (3) The legislature shall appropriate funding for the Washington
31 college grant program. Allocations must be made on the basis of
32 estimated eligible participants enrolled in eligible institutions of
33 higher education or apprenticeship programs. All eligible students
34 are entitled to a Washington college grant beginning in academic year
35 2020-21.

36 (4) The office shall award Washington college grants to all
37 eligible students beginning in academic year 2020-21.

38 (5) To be eligible for the Washington college grant, students
39 must meet the following requirements:

1 (a) (i) Demonstrate financial need under RCW 28B.92.205;

2 (ii) Receive one of the following types of public assistance:

3 (A) Aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits under chapter
4 74.62 RCW;

5 (B) Essential needs and housing support program benefits under
6 RCW 43.185C.220; or

7 (C) Pregnant women assistance program financial grants under RCW
8 74.62.030; or

9 (iii) Be a Washington high school student in the 10th, 11th, or
10 12th grade whose parent or legal guardian is receiving one of the
11 types of public assistance listed in (a)(ii) of this subsection and
12 have received a certificate confirming eligibility from the office in
13 accordance with section 6 of this act;

14 (b) (i) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least three
15 quarter credits or the equivalent semester credits at an institution
16 of higher education in Washington as defined in RCW 28B.92.030; or

17 (ii) Be enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program approved
18 under chapter 49.04 RCW;

19 (c) Be a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a)
20 through (e);

21 (d) File an annual application for financial aid as approved by
22 the office; and

23 (e) Must not have earned a baccalaureate degree or higher from a
24 postsecondary institution.

25 (6) Washington college grant eligibility may not extend beyond
26 five years or one hundred twenty-five percent of the published length
27 of the program in which the student is enrolled or the credit or
28 clock-hour equivalent.

29 (7) Institutional aid administrators shall determine whether a
30 student eligible for the Washington college grant in a given academic
31 year may remain eligible for the ensuing year if the student's family
32 income increases by no more than three percent.

33 (8) Qualifications for receipt and renewal include maintaining
34 satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an eligible
35 program as determined by the office and established in rule.

36 (9) Should a recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any
37 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the grant
38 shall be returned to the state educational grant fund by the
39 institution of higher education according to the institution of

1 higher education's policy for issuing refunds, except as provided in
2 RCW 28B.92.070.

3 (10) An eligible student enrolled on a part-time basis shall
4 receive a prorated portion of the Washington college grant for any
5 academic period in which he or she is enrolled on a part-time basis.

6 (11) The Washington college grant is intended to be used to meet
7 the costs of postsecondary education for students with financial
8 need. The student shall be awarded all need-based financial aid for
9 which the student qualifies as determined by the institution.

10 (12) Students and participating institutions of higher education
11 shall comply with all the rules adopted by the council for the
12 administration of this chapter.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.92
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) The office shall enter into a data-sharing agreement with the
16 department of social and health services to facilitate the sharing of
17 individual-level data. The department of social and health services
18 shall send the office a list of all individuals receiving benefits
19 under the public assistance programs listed under RCW 28B.92.200(5)
20 on at least an annual basis. The office shall use the list to confirm
21 students' eligibility for the Washington college grant program,
22 without requiring the student to fill out a separate financial aid
23 form. The office may also use the information to conduct outreach
24 promoting the Washington college grant.

25 (2) For high school students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades whose
26 families are receiving benefits under one of the public assistance
27 programs listed under RCW 28B.92.200(5), the office shall issue a
28 certificate to the student that validates the student's financial
29 need eligibility for the Washington college grant program. The
30 certificate is good for one year after high school graduation and may
31 be used upon enrollment in an eligible institution of higher
32 education, provided the student meets the other Washington college
33 grant eligibility requirements. The office shall track and maintain
34 records of students who were issued certificates under this section
35 in order to confirm a student's financial need eligibility with an
36 institution of higher education. A student does not need to produce
37 the certificate to receive the Washington college grant.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.92
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 The office shall collaborate with the department of social and
4 health services to facilitate individual-level outreach to
5 individuals receiving benefits under the public assistance programs
6 listed under RCW 28B.92.200(5), temporary assistance for needy
7 families under chapter 74.08 RCW, the state family assistance program
8 provided for in rule, and the basic food program to inform these
9 individuals of their eligibility for the Washington college grant
10 program.

11 **Sec. 8.** RCW 74.04.060 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 817 are each
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (1)(a) For the protection of applicants and recipients, the
14 department, the authority, and the county offices and their
15 respective officers and employees are prohibited, except as
16 hereinafter provided, from disclosing the contents of any records,
17 files, papers and communications, except for purposes directly
18 connected with the administration of the programs of this title. In
19 any judicial proceeding, except such proceeding as is directly
20 concerned with the administration of these programs, such records,
21 files, papers and communications, and their contents, shall be deemed
22 privileged communications and except for the right of any individual
23 to inquire of the office whether a named individual is a recipient of
24 welfare assistance and such person shall be entitled to an
25 affirmative or negative answer.

26 (b) Unless prohibited by federal law, for the purpose of
27 investigating and preventing child abuse and neglect and providing
28 for the health care coordination and well-being of children in foster
29 care, the department and the authority shall disclose to the
30 department of children, youth, and families the following
31 information: Developmental disabilities administration client
32 records; home and community services client records; long-term care
33 facility or certified community residential supports records; health
34 care information; child support information; food assistance
35 information; and public assistance information. Disclosure under this
36 subsection (1)(b) is mandatory for the purposes of the federal health
37 insurance portability and accountability act.

38 (c) Upon written request of a parent who has been awarded
39 visitation rights in an action for divorce or separation or any

1 parent with legal custody of the child, the department shall disclose
2 to him or her the last known address and location of his or her
3 natural or adopted children. The secretary shall adopt rules which
4 establish procedures for disclosing the address of the children and
5 providing, when appropriate, for prior notice to the custodian of the
6 children. The notice shall state that a request for disclosure has
7 been received and will be complied with by the department unless the
8 department receives a copy of a court order which enjoins the
9 disclosure of the information or restricts or limits the requesting
10 party's right to contact or visit the other party or the child.
11 Information supplied to a parent by the department shall be used only
12 for purposes directly related to the enforcement of the visitation
13 and custody provisions of the court order of separation or decree of
14 divorce. No parent shall disclose such information to any other
15 person except for the purpose of enforcing visitation provisions of
16 the said order or decree.

17 (d) Unless prohibited by federal law, the department is permitted
18 to release individual-level data of state-funded public assistance
19 programs listed under RCW 28B.92.200 to the student achievement
20 council under chapter 28B.77 RCW for the purposes of section 6 of
21 this act.

22 (e) The department shall review methods to improve the protection
23 and confidentiality of information for recipients of welfare
24 assistance who have disclosed to the department that they are past or
25 current victims of domestic violence or stalking.

26 (2) The county offices shall maintain monthly at their offices a
27 report showing the names and addresses of all recipients in the
28 county receiving public assistance under this title, together with
29 the amount paid to each during the preceding month.

30 (3) The provisions of this section shall not apply to duly
31 designated representatives of approved private welfare agencies,
32 public officials, members of legislative interim committees and
33 advisory committees when performing duties directly connected with
34 the administration of this title, such as regulation and
35 investigation directly connected therewith: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That
36 any information so obtained by such persons or groups shall be
37 treated with such degree of confidentiality as is required by the
38 federal social security law.

39 (4) It shall be unlawful, except as provided in this section, for
40 any person, body, association, firm, corporation or other agency to

1 solicit, publish, disclose, receive, make use of, or to authorize,
2 knowingly permit, participate in or acquiesce in the use of any lists
3 or names for commercial or political purposes of any nature. The
4 violation of this section shall be a gross misdemeanor.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If specific funding for the purposes of
6 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
7 provided by June 30, 2022, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
8 act is null and void."

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By Senator Randall

ADOPTED 03/04/2022

9 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "enrollment;" strike the
10 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28B.92.200 and
11 74.04.060; adding a new section to chapter 28B.77 RCW; adding a new
12 section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28B.92
13 RCW; and creating new sections."

EFFECT: (1) Eliminates the creation of the Washington career and
college pathways innovation challenge program.

(2) No longer modifies the student achievement council fund for
innovation and quality.

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