

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SHB 1425

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Expanding scholarships for community and technical college students.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on College & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Taylor, Leavitt, Valdez, Santos, Johnson, J., Ortiz-Self, Simmons, Rule, Ramel, Chopp, Pollet, Hackney and Morgan).

**House Committee on College & Workforce Development**  
**Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development**

### **Background:**

#### Washington State Opportunity Scholarship.

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) program was established in 2011 to provide scholarships to low- and middle-income resident students pursuing eligible high-demand majors in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and health care, and to encourage scholarship recipients to work in the state upon completion of their degrees. The WSOS is a private-public match program in which the state matches any private donations to fund the scholarships. The state match is capped at \$50 million annually.

The WSOS was expanded in 2017 and 2018, and now includes a Career and Technical Scholarship pathway. The Career and Technical Scholarship provides \$1,500 per quarter to a student pursuing an apprenticeship or a certificate or associate's degree in a professional-technical program. In 2020, 552 students received a scholarship.

Students must meet the following requirements to qualify for the Career and Technical Scholarship:

- be a Washington resident;
- have earned a high school diploma or equivalent in Washington;
- have a total family income that does not exceed 125 percent of Washington state

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

- family median income based on family size;
- file a financial aid form;
- plan to pursue an eligible certificate or degree at an eligible higher education institution or enroll in a registered apprenticeship program; and
- plan to enroll in at least six credits.

Rural Jobs Initiative.

The Rural Jobs Initiative (RJI) is administered by the WSOS and is a separate scholarship program within the Career and Technical Scholarship. To qualify for the RJI, a student needs to:

- be a Washington resident;
- be a resident of a rural county or have graduated from a Washington high school in a district with fewer than 2,000 students;
- have a family income that does not exceed 70 percent of Washington state median family income adjusted for family size;
- be enrolled in a certificate, degree, or other industry-recognized credential or training program that prepares a student for a high-employer-demand field; and
- be enrolled at a community or technical college in a rural county.

The RJI recipients are eligible to receive \$3,500 in their first quarter, \$2,500 in their second quarter, and \$2,000 per quarter for the remainder of their program. In 2020, 17 students received a scholarship.

**Summary:**

Eligibility for the Career and Technical Scholarship is expanded by removing the requirement for a student's high school diploma or equivalent to be from Washington.

Eligibility for the RJI is modified. To be eligible for the RJI a student must either:

- be a resident of a rural county and be enrolled in a community or technical college; or
- have graduated from a school in a rural county and be enrolled in a community or technical college located in a rural county.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	98	0	
Senate	46	0	(Senate amended)
			(House refused to concur/asked Senate to recede)
Senate	37	12	(Senate receded)

**Effective:** July 25, 2021