

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1687

As Reported by House Committee On:
College & Workforce Development

Title: An act relating to enhancing the college bound scholarship program by increasing opportunities for students to attend community and technical colleges.

Brief Description: Enhancing the college bound scholarship program by increasing opportunities for students to attend community and technical colleges.

Sponsors: Representatives Bergquist, Leavitt, Ramel, Sells, Johnson, J., Bateman, Valdez, Paul, Callan, Davis, Goodman, Gregerson, Taylor, Ramos, Santos, Sullivan, Riccelli, Harris-Talley, Hackney and Kloba.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

College & Workforce Development: 1/12/22, 1/20/22 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires only College Bound Scholarship eligible students seeking direct admission to a public or private four-year institution of higher education to graduate with at least a C grade point average.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COLLEGE & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Slatter, Chair; Entenman, Vice Chair; Leavitt, Vice Chair; Chambers, Ranking Minority Member; Jacobsen, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Hansen, Paul, Pollet and Sells.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 3 members: Representatives Chandler, Hoff and Kraft.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 1 member: Representative Sutherland.

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.

Staff: Megan Mulvihill.

Background:

College Bound Scholarship.

The College Bound Scholarship (CBS) program was established in 2007 to provide guaranteed four-year tuition to students from low-income families. The first CBS awards were granted to the graduating high school class of 2012. Eligible students for the CBS include those who:

- qualify for free or reduced-price lunches in the seventh grade, eighth grade, or in certain circumstances, ninth grade; or
- are independent from parents or guardians, or are receiving extended foster care services; and
 - are in grades 7 through 12; or
 - are between the ages of 18 and 21 years and have not graduated from high school.

A student may also be eligible if they were a dependent who was adopted between the ages of 14 and 18 with a negotiated adoption agreement that includes continued eligibility in the CBS program.

Beginning in the seventh grade, eligible students are automatically enrolled in the CBS by the Student Achievement Council. Students and parents are notified of the student's eligibility and the scholarship's requirements. To receive the CBS, a student must graduate from high school with at least a C grade point average, have no felony convictions, and have a family income that does not exceed 65 percent of the state median family income.

The CBS recipients who attend public two-year or four-year institutions of higher education receive an award to cover the cost of tuition and fees, minus any state-funded grant, scholarship, or waiver assistance. The CBS recipient also receives \$500 for books and materials. The student must maintain satisfactory academic progress and may not receive the scholarship for more than four full-time years.

Summary of Bill:

For CBS eligible students enrolling in a postsecondary education institution for the first time during the 2022-23 academic year, a C grade point average is required only for those students seeking direct admission to a public or private four-year institution of higher education.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Washington has a serious problem with students disengaging after high school. Fewer Washington students go directly to college than elsewhere, and the CBS is a modest effort to increase direct enrollment. If a student struggled academically in high school, why would the state put up a barrier to that student pursuing a trade or taking vocational courses? These barriers should be removed. In the past 10 years since students have started receiving the CBS, there have been thousands that figured out a little too late in their high school career that college is their path. There are about 5,000 to 7,000 students who graduate each year without a 2.0 grade point average, so this is not a tiny population, but by no means the majority. These students might barely miss that 2.0 grade point average and start at a community or technical college, but lose out on the CBS. Somewhere around 10 percent of those students do enroll in college despite not getting the CBS. This change in accessibility is a wonderful opportunity for CTC students. There are many who are already on college campuses and may not be accessing the early commitment of financial aid that is designed to encourage them to complete postsecondary options. This proposal encourages students to continue their education.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Steve Bergquist, prime sponsor; Jeff Pack; Yokiko Hayashi-Saguil, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; and Marc Webster, Washington Student Achievement Council.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.