

SB 5904 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Appropriations

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 02/29/2024

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

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.200 and 2022 c 214 s 5 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The Washington college grant program is created to provide a
6 statewide free college program for eligible participants and greater
7 access to postsecondary education for Washington residents. The
8 Washington college grant program is intended to increase the number
9 of high school graduates and adults that can attain a postsecondary
10 credential and provide them with the qualifications needed to compete
11 for job opportunities in Washington.

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

15 (3) The legislature shall appropriate funding for the Washington
16 college grant program. Allocations must be made on the basis of
17 estimated eligible participants enrolled in eligible institutions of
18 higher education or apprenticeship programs. All eligible students
19 are entitled to a Washington college grant beginning in academic year
20 2020-21.

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

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

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

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

27 (A) Aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits under chapter
28 74.62 RCW;

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

31 (C) Pregnant women assistance program financial grants under RCW
32 74.62.030; or

1 (iii) Be a Washington high school student in the 10th, 11th, or
2 12th grade whose parent or legal guardian is receiving one of the
3 types of public assistance listed in (a)(ii) of this subsection and
4 have received a certificate confirming eligibility from the office in
5 accordance with RCW 28B.92.225;

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

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

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

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

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

17 (6) Washington college grant eligibility may not extend beyond
18 ~~((five))~~ six years or ~~((one hundred twenty-five))~~ 150 percent of the
19 published length of the program in which the student is enrolled or
20 the credit or clock-hour equivalent.

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

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

28 (9) Should a recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any
29 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the grant
30 shall be returned to the state educational grant fund by the
31 institution of higher education according to the institution of
32 higher education's policy for issuing refunds, except as provided in
33 RCW 28B.92.070.

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

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

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

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2023 c 174 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The office of student financial assistance shall design the
7 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this
8 section and in alignment with the Washington college grant program in
9 chapter 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section. The
10 right of an eligible student to receive a college bound scholarship
11 vest upon enrollment in the program that is earned by meeting the
12 requirements of this section as it exists at the time of the
13 student's enrollment under subsection (2) of this section.

14 (1) "Eligible students" are those students who:

15 (a) Qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

16 (i) If a student qualifies in the seventh or eighth grade, the
17 student remains eligible even if the student does not receive free or
18 reduced-price lunches thereafter.

19 (ii) Beginning in the 2019-20 academic year, if a student
20 qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches in the ninth grade and
21 was previously ineligible during the seventh or eighth grade while he
22 or she was a student in Washington, the student is eligible for the
23 college bound scholarship program;

24 (b) Are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and:

25 (i) In grade seven through 12; or

26 (ii) Are between the ages of 18 and 21 and have not graduated
27 from high school; or

28 (c) Were dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and were adopted
29 between the ages of 14 and 18 with a negotiated adoption agreement
30 that includes continued eligibility for the Washington state college
31 bound scholarship program pursuant to RCW 74.13A.025.

32 (2)(a) Every eligible student shall be automatically enrolled by
33 the office of student financial assistance, with no action necessary
34 by the student, student's family, or student's guardians.

35 (b) Eligible students and the students' parents or guardians
36 shall be notified of the student's enrollment in the Washington
37 college bound scholarship program and the requirements for award of
38 the scholarship by the office of student financial assistance. To the
39 maximum extent practicable, an eligible student must acknowledge

1 enrollment in the college bound scholarship program and receipt of
2 the requirements for award of the scholarship.

3 (c) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and
4 the department of children, youth, and families must provide the
5 office of student financial assistance with a list of eligible
6 students when requested. The office of student financial assistance
7 must determine the most effective methods, including timing and
8 frequency, to notify eligible students of enrollment in the
9 Washington college bound scholarship program. The office of student
10 financial assistance must take reasonable steps to ensure that
11 eligible students acknowledge enrollment in the college bound
12 scholarship program and receipt of the requirements for award of the
13 scholarship. The office of student financial assistance shall also
14 make available to every school district information, brochures, and
15 posters to increase awareness and to enable school districts to
16 notify eligible students directly or through school teachers,
17 counselors, or school activities.

18 (3) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, an
19 eligible student must:

20 (a)(i) Graduate from a public high school under RCW 28A.150.010,
21 an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW in
22 Washington, or have received home-based instruction under chapter
23 28A.200 RCW; and

24 (ii) For eligible students enrolling in a postsecondary
25 educational institution for the first time beginning with the 2023-24
26 academic year, graduate with at least a "C" average for consideration
27 of direct admission to a public or private four-year institution of
28 higher education;

29 (b) Have no felony convictions;

30 (c) Be a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a)
31 through (e); and

32 (d) Have a family income that does not exceed 65 percent of the
33 state median family income at the time of high school graduation.

34 (4)(a) An eligible student who is a resident student under RCW
35 28B.15.012(2)(e) must also provide the institution, as defined in RCW
36 28B.15.012, an affidavit indicating that the individual will file an
37 application to become a permanent resident at the earliest
38 opportunity the individual is eligible to do so and a willingness to
39 engage in any other activities necessary to acquire citizenship,
40 including but not limited to citizenship or civics review courses.

1 (b) For eligible students as defined in subsection (1)(b) and (c)
2 of this section, a student may also meet the requirement in
3 subsection (3)(a) of this section by receiving a high school
4 equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536.

5 (5)(a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of
6 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the value of the award
7 shall be (i) the difference between the student's tuition and
8 required fees, less the value of any state-funded grant, scholarship,
9 or waiver assistance the student receives; (ii) plus five hundred
10 dollars for books and materials.

11 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of
12 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the
13 representative average of awards granted to students in public
14 research universities in Washington or the representative average of
15 awards granted to students in public research universities in
16 Washington in the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

17 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
18 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
19 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
20 in Washington or the representative average of awards granted to
21 students in public community and technical colleges in Washington in
22 the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

23 (6) Eligible students must enroll no later than the fall term, as
24 defined by the institution of higher education, one academic year
25 following high school graduation. (~~Eligible students may receive no~~
26 ~~more than four full-time years' worth of scholarship awards within a~~
27 ~~five-year period~~) College bound scholarship eligibility may not
28 extend beyond six years or 150 percent of the published length of the
29 program in which the student is enrolled or the credit or clock-hour
30 equivalent.

31 (7) Institutions of higher education shall award the student all
32 need-based and merit-based financial aid for which the student would
33 otherwise qualify. The Washington college bound scholarship is
34 intended to replace unmet need, loans, and, at the student's option,
35 work-study award before any other grants or scholarships are reduced.

36 (8) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students
37 graduating in 2012.

38 (9) The eligible student has a property right in the award, but
39 the state of Washington retains legal ownership of tuition units
40 awarded as scholarships under this chapter until the tuition units

1 are redeemed. These tuition units shall remain separately held from
2 any tuition units owned under chapter 28B.95 RCW by a Washington
3 college bound scholarship recipient.

4 ~~(10) ((The scholarship award must be used within five years of~~
5 ~~receipt. Any unused scholarship tuition units revert to the~~
6 ~~Washington college bound scholarship account.~~

7 ~~(11))~~ Should the recipient terminate his or her enrollment for
8 any reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the
9 scholarship tuition units shall revert to the Washington college
10 bound scholarship account.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.118.005 and 2007 c 405 s 1 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 The legislature intends to inspire and encourage all Washington
14 students to dream big by creating a guaranteed ~~((four-year))~~ tuition
15 scholarship program for students from low-income families who enroll
16 within one year of high school graduation. The legislature finds
17 that, too often, financial barriers prevent many of the brightest
18 students from considering college as a future possibility. Often the
19 cost of tuition coupled with the complexity of finding and applying
20 for financial aid is enough to prevent a student from even applying
21 to college. Many students become disconnected from the education
22 system early on and may give up or drop out before graduation. It is
23 the intent of the legislature to alert students early in their
24 educational career to the options and opportunities available beyond
25 high school.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.117.030 and 2019 c 470 s 23 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) The office shall design and, to the extent funds are
29 appropriated for this purpose, implement, passport to careers with
30 two programmatic pathways: The passport to college promise program
31 and the passport to apprenticeship opportunities program. Both
32 programs offer supplemental scholarship and student assistance for
33 students who were under the care of the state foster care system,
34 tribal foster care system, or federal foster care system, and
35 verified unaccompanied youth or young adults who have experienced
36 homelessness.

37 (2) The office shall convene and consult with an advisory
38 committee to assist with program design and implementation. The

1 committee shall include but not be limited to former foster care and
2 unaccompanied homeless youth and their advocates; representatives
3 from the state board for community and technical colleges, public and
4 private agencies that assist current and former foster care
5 recipients and unaccompanied youth or young adults experiencing
6 homelessness in their transition to adulthood; student support
7 specialists from public and private colleges and universities; the
8 state workforce training and education coordinating board; the
9 employment security department; and the state apprenticeship council.

10 (3) To the extent that sufficient funds have been appropriated
11 for this purpose, a student is eligible for assistance under this
12 section if he or she:

13 (a)(i) Was in the care of the state foster care system, tribal
14 foster care system, or federal foster care system in Washington state
15 at any time before age twenty-one subsequent to the following:

16 (A) Age fifteen as of July 1, 2018;

17 (B) Age fourteen as of July 1, 2019; and

18 (C) Age thirteen as of July 1, 2020; or

19 (ii) Beginning July 1, 2019, was verified on or after July 1st of
20 the prior academic year as an unaccompanied youth experiencing
21 homelessness, before age twenty-one;

22 (b) Is a resident student, as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2), or if
23 unable to establish residency because of homelessness or placement in
24 out-of-state foster care under the interstate compact for the
25 placement of children, has residency determined through verification
26 by the office;

27 (c) Is enrolled with or will enroll on at least a half-time basis
28 with an institution of higher education or a registered
29 apprenticeship or recognized preapprenticeship in Washington state by
30 the age of twenty-one;

31 (d) Is making satisfactory academic progress toward the
32 completion of a degree, certificate program, or registered
33 apprenticeship or recognized preapprenticeship, if receiving
34 supplemental scholarship assistance;

35 (e) Has not earned a bachelor's or professional degree; and

36 (f) Is not pursuing a degree in theology.

37 (4) The office shall define a process for verifying unaccompanied
38 homeless status for determining eligibility under subsection
39 (3)(a)(ii) of this section. The office may use a letter from the
40 following persons or entities to provide verification: A high school

1 or school district McKinney-Vento liaison; the director or designated
2 staff member of an emergency shelter, transitional housing program,
3 or homeless youth drop-in center; or other similar professional case
4 manager or school employee. Students who have no formal connection
5 with such a professional may also submit to the office an essay that
6 describes their experience with homelessness and the barriers it
7 created to their academic progress. The office may consider this
8 essay in lieu of a letter of homelessness determination and may
9 interview the student if further information is needed to verify
10 eligibility.

11 (5) A passport to college promise program is created.

12 (a) A passport to college promise scholarship under this section:

13 (i) Shall not exceed resident undergraduate tuition and fees at
14 the highest-priced public institution of higher education in the
15 state; and

16 (ii) Shall not exceed the student's financial need, when combined
17 with all other public and private grant, scholarship, and waiver
18 assistance the student receives.

19 (b) (~~(An eligible student may receive a passport)~~) Passport to
20 college promise scholarship (~~(under this section for a maximum of~~
21 ~~five years after the student first enrolls with an institution of~~
22 ~~higher education or until the student turns age twenty-six, whichever~~
23 ~~occurs first. If a student turns age twenty-six during an academic~~
24 ~~year, and would otherwise be eligible for a scholarship under this~~
25 ~~section, the student shall continue to be eligible for a scholarship~~
26 ~~for the remainder of the academic year)~~) eligibility may not extend
27 beyond six years or 150 percent of the published length of the
28 program in which the student is enrolled or the credit or clock-hour
29 equivalent.

30 (c) The office, in consultation with and with assistance from the
31 state board for community and technical colleges, shall perform an
32 annual analysis to verify that those institutions of higher education
33 at which students have received a scholarship under this section have
34 awarded the student all available need-based and merit-based grant
35 and scholarship aid for which the student qualifies.

36 (d) In designing and implementing the passport to college promise
37 student support program under this section, the office, in
38 consultation with and with assistance from the state board for
39 community and technical colleges, shall ensure that a participating
40 college or university:

1 (i) Has a viable plan for identifying students eligible for
2 assistance under this section, for tracking and enhancing their
3 academic progress, for addressing their unique needs for assistance
4 during school vacations and academic interims, and for linking them
5 to appropriate sources of assistance in their transition to
6 adulthood;

7 (ii) Receives financial and other incentives for achieving
8 measurable progress in the recruitment, retention, and graduation of
9 eligible students.

10 (e) To the extent funds are appropriated for this specific
11 purpose, the office shall contract with at least one nongovernmental
12 entity to provide services to support effective program
13 implementation, resulting in increased postsecondary completion rates
14 for passport scholars.

15 (6) The passport to apprenticeship opportunities program is
16 created. The office shall:

17 (a) Identify students and applicants who are eligible for
18 services under RCW 28B.117.030 through coordination of certain
19 agencies as detailed in RCW 28B.117.040;

20 (b) Provide financial assistance through the nongovernmental
21 entity or entities in RCW 28B.117.055 for registered apprenticeship
22 and recognized preapprenticeship entrance requirements and
23 occupational-specific costs that does not exceed the individual's
24 financial need; and

25 (c) Extend financial assistance to any eligible applicant for ((a
26 maximum of)) six years ((after first enrolling with a registered
27 apprenticeship or recognized preapprenticeship, or until the
28 applicant turns twenty-six, whichever occurs first)) or 150 percent
29 of the published length of the program in which the student is
30 enrolled or the credit or clock-hour equivalent.

31 (7) Recipients may utilize passport to college promise or
32 passport to apprenticeship opportunities at different times, but not
33 concurrently. The total award an individual may receive in any
34 combination of the programs shall not exceed the equivalent amount
35 that would have been awarded for the individual to attend a public
36 university for ((five)) six years with the highest annual tuition and
37 state-mandated fees in the state.

1 (8) Personally identifiable information shared pursuant to this
2 section retains its confidentiality and may not be further disclosed
3 except as allowed under state and federal law.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of
5 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
6 provided by June 30, 2024, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
7 act is null and void."

8 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Adds a null and void clause, making the bill null and void unless funded in the budget.

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