

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5904

C 323 L 24
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Extending the terms of eligibility for financial aid programs.

Sponsors: Senators Nobles, Hansen, Dhingra, Frame, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Lias, Lovelett, Nguyen, Randall, Stanford, Trudeau, Valdez and Wilson, C.; by request of Student Achievement Council.

Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
House Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce
House Committee on Appropriations

Background: Washington College Grant. The State Need Grant was modified in 2019, and renamed the Washington College Grant (WCG). The WCG is the state's largest financial aid program, and provides awards to low-income students to pursue postsecondary education. The WCG is an entitlement program with guaranteed awards for those students who qualify. The WCG award amount varies based on the institution the student attends and the student's family income. An eligible student may receive a WCG for five years or up to 125 percent of the published length of the student's program.

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. 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 student must maintain satisfactory academic progress and may not receive the scholarship for more than four full-time years.

Passport to Careers. The Passport to Careers program is comprised of the Passport to College and Passport to Apprenticeship grant programs. These programs serve former foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth. An individual is eligible for a maximum of five years or until age 26. The total award an individual may receive must not exceed the

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equivalent amount that would have been awarded for the individual to attend a public university for five years with the highest annual tuition and state-mandated fees.

Summary: A student is eligible to receive an award under the WCG, CBS, Passport to College, or Passport to Apprenticeship for six years or up to 150 percent of the published length of the student's program, or the credit or clock-hour equivalent. The requirement that a student use a passport award before age 26 is eliminated.

The education research and data center is required to report on the impacts to degree completion from increasing the timeline for use of state financial aid programs to the Legislature by December 1, 2024, and each year thereafter.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	34	14	
House	61	35	(House amended)
Senate	35	14	(Senate concurred)

Effective: June 6, 2024