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**HOUSE BILL 1693**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Lekanoff, Chopp, Reed, Leavitt, Reeves, Eslick, Ortiz-Self, Ramel, Pollet, Macri, and Timmons

Read first time 01/31/23. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the students experiencing  
2 homelessness and foster youth pilot program; and amending RCW  
3 28B.50.916 and 28B.77.850.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.50.916 and 2021 c 62 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
8 specific purpose, the college board shall select eight college  
9 districts, with no less than four located outside of the Puget Sound  
10 region to participate in a ((pilot)) program to provide assistance to  
11 students experiencing homelessness and to students who were in the  
12 foster care system when they graduated high school. The college  
13 districts chosen to participate in the ((pilot)) program must provide  
14 certain accommodations to these students that may include, but are  
15 not limited to, the following:

- 16 (a) Access to laundry facilities;  
17 (b) Access to storage;  
18 (c) Access to locker room and shower facilities;  
19 (d) Reduced-price meals or meal plans, and access to food banks;  
20 (e) Access to technology;

1 (f) Access to short-term housing or housing assistance,  
2 especially during seasonal breaks; and

3 (g) Case management services.

4 (2) The college districts may also establish plans to develop  
5 surplus property for affordable housing to accommodate the needs of  
6 students experiencing homelessness and students who were in the  
7 foster care system when they graduated high school.

8 (3) The college districts participating in the ((~~pilot~~)) program  
9 shall leverage existing community resources by making available to  
10 students in the ((~~pilot~~)) program information that is available for  
11 individuals experiencing homelessness, including through not-for-  
12 profit organizations, the local housing authority, and the department  
13 of commerce's office of homeless youth.

14 (4) The college districts participating in the ((~~pilot~~)) program  
15 shall annually provide a joint report to the appropriate committees  
16 of the legislature ((~~by~~)) in accordance with RCW 43.01.036 beginning  
17 December 1, 2023, that includes at least the following information:

18 (a) The number of students experiencing homelessness or food  
19 insecurity, and the number of students who were in the foster care  
20 system when they graduated high school who ((~~were—attending~~))  
21 attended a community or technical college during the ((~~pilot~~))  
22 program. The college board shall coordinate with all of the community  
23 and technical colleges to collect voluntary data on how many students  
24 experiencing homelessness or food insecurity are attending the  
25 community and technical colleges;

26 (b) The number of students assisted by the ((~~pilot~~)) program;

27 (c) Strategies for accommodating students experiencing  
28 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students; and

29 (d) Legislative recommendations for how students experiencing  
30 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students  
31 could be better served.

32 (5) The college districts not selected to participate in the  
33 ((~~pilot~~)) program are:

34 (a) Invited to participate voluntarily; and

35 (b) Encouraged to submit the data required of the ((~~pilot~~))  
36 program participants under subsection (4) of this section, regardless  
37 of participation status.

38 ((~~The pilot program expires July 1, 2024.~~

1       ~~(7) This section expires January 1, 2025)~~ For purposes of this  
2 section, "program" means the students experiencing homelessness and  
3 foster youth program.

4       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.77.850 and 2021 c 62 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6       (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
7 specific purpose, the council shall select four public four-year  
8 institutions of higher education, two on each side of the crest of  
9 the Cascade mountain range, and a tribal college, to participate in a  
10 ~~((pilot))~~ program to provide assistance to students experiencing  
11 homelessness and to students who were in the foster care system when  
12 they graduated high school. The four-year institutions of higher  
13 education and the tribal college chosen to participate in the  
14 ~~((pilot))~~ program must provide certain accommodations to these  
15 students that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 16       (a) Access to laundry facilities;
- 17       (b) Access to storage;
- 18       (c) Access to locker room and shower facilities;
- 19       (d) Reduced-price meals or meal plans, and access to food banks;
- 20       (e) Access to technology;
- 21       (f) Access to short-term housing or housing assistance,  
22 especially during seasonal breaks; and
- 23       (g) Case management services.

24       (2) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal  
25 college may also establish plans to develop surplus property for  
26 affordable housing to accommodate the needs of students experiencing  
27 homelessness and students who were in the foster care system when  
28 they graduated high school.

29       (3) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal  
30 college participating in the ~~((pilot))~~ program shall leverage  
31 existing community resources by making available to students in the  
32 ~~((pilot))~~ program information that is available for individuals  
33 experiencing homelessness, including through not-for-profit  
34 organizations, the local housing authority, and the department of  
35 commerce's office of homeless youth.

36       (4) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal  
37 college participating in the ~~((pilot))~~ program shall annually provide  
38 a joint report to the appropriate committees of the legislature

1 ((by)) in accordance with RCW 43.01.036 beginning December 1, 2023,  
2 that includes at least the following information:

3 (a) The number of students experiencing homelessness or food  
4 insecurity, and the number of students who were in the foster care  
5 system when they graduated high school who ~~((were—attending))~~  
6 attended a four-year institution of higher education or the tribal  
7 college during the ~~((pilot))~~ program. The council shall coordinate  
8 with all of the four-year institutions of higher education and the  
9 tribal college to collect voluntary data on how many students  
10 experiencing homelessness or food insecurity are attending the four-  
11 year institutions of higher education and the tribal college;

12 (b) The number of students assisted by the ~~((pilot))~~ program;

13 (c) Strategies for accommodating students experiencing  
14 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students; and

15 (d) Legislative recommendations for how students experiencing  
16 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students  
17 could be better served.

18 (5) The four-year institutions of higher education not selected  
19 to participate in the ~~((pilot))~~ program are:

20 (a) Invited to participate voluntarily; and

21 (b) Encouraged to submit the data required of the ~~((pilot))~~  
22 program participants under subsection (4) of this section, regardless  
23 of participation status.

24 (6) ~~((The pilot program expires July 1, 2024.~~

25 ~~(7) This section expires January 1, 2025))~~ For purposes of this  
26 section, "program" means the students experiencing homelessness and  
27 foster youth program.

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