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**SENATE BILL 5115**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Valdez, Trudeau, Hasegawa, Krishnadasan, Nobles, Saldaña, and C. Wilson

Prefiled 12/24/24. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington dream act service  
2 incentive program; adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply  
6 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
7 otherwise.

8 (1) "Eligible student" means a student who meets the necessary  
9 program requirements under section 3 of this act.

10 (2) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in  
11 RCW 28B.92.030.

12 (3) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance  
13 created in RCW 28B.76.090.

14 (4) "Approved institution or organization" means an institution  
15 of higher education, nonprofit organization, for-profit business  
16 entity, or a governmental entity approved for participation in the  
17 Washington dream act service incentive grant program by the office  
18 under section 4 of this act.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington dream act service  
20 incentive grant program is established in accordance with this act

1 for the purpose of awarding grants to eligible students for community  
2 or volunteer service. The office shall develop and administer the  
3 service incentive grant program and may create and enter into  
4 agreements with employers and institutions of higher education to  
5 implement this chapter.

6 (2) Beginning in the 2025-26 academic year, the office shall  
7 disperse grant awards to approved institutions for the awarding of  
8 grants to eligible students for the completion of hours of service  
9 for an approved institution or organization.

10 (3)(a) Grant awards shall be based on an eligible student's  
11 financial need as determined by the office through the Washington  
12 application for state financial aid. Student eligibility for the  
13 grant program shall be determined by the office of student financial  
14 aid of the institution of higher education in which the student is  
15 enrolled or in which they have indicated that they will attend.

16 (b)(i) In calculating the awarding of grants and final grant  
17 award amounts, the institution of higher education must take into  
18 consideration other grants or financial aid that an eligible student  
19 has been awarded.

20 (ii) Once a student is identified as eligible and an award is  
21 calculated, the institution of higher education shall submit  
22 anticipated awards and payment requests to the office using a process  
23 established by the office.

24 (iii) Grant awards per term shall be calculated by multiplying  
25 the number of hours of service to be performed per week by the number  
26 of weeks in the academic term by the adjusted minimum wage rate  
27 calculated by the department of labor and industries under RCW  
28 49.46.020(2)(b), with consideration of other awarded financial aid  
29 under (b)(i) of this subsection.

30 (c) Grant awards shall be disbursed by the institution of higher  
31 education at the beginning of the academic term.

32 (4) The community or volunteer service performed by the  
33 participating student:

34 (a) May not exceed 19 hours per week; and

35 (b) May not be advocacy of a political or religious nature.

36 (5)(a) The office shall establish a standardized method of  
37 verification of completed service for participating students. Upon  
38 verification of performed service by the institution of higher  
39 education, the office of student financial aid of the institution of  
40 higher education shall approve the grant for the subsequent academic

1 term unless the student is otherwise no longer eligible to  
2 participate in the program.

3 (b) If a participating student does not provide the documentation  
4 required under (a) of this subsection, the institution of higher  
5 education shall lease the estimated award in a nondisbursing status.

6 (6) Preference for participation in the program must be given to  
7 eligible students who are not eligible for participation in the state  
8 work-study program under chapter 28B.12 RCW.

9 (7) A grant awarded under the program shall not offset or replace  
10 any other source of grant aid including, but not limited to,  
11 institutional aid and scholarships.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) In order to be eligible to participate  
13 in the Washington dream act service incentive grant program, a  
14 student must meet the following requirements:

15 (a) The student must be a resident student as defined in RCW  
16 28B.96.010;

17 (b) The student has completed the Washington application for  
18 state financial aid;

19 (c) The student has indicated that they will attend an  
20 institution of higher education or is enrolled for at least six  
21 quarter credits or the equivalent semester credits and is making  
22 satisfactory progress in a program, as defined in rule by the office,  
23 at an institution of higher education;

24 (d) The student has demonstrated financial need as defined in RCW  
25 28B.92.030; and

26 (e) The student must not qualify for federally funded student  
27 financial aid because of their immigration status.

28 (2) Determination of a student's eligibility for the Washington  
29 dream act service incentive grant program under this chapter shall be  
30 made by the office of student financial aid of the institution of  
31 higher education in which the student is enrolled or in which they  
32 have indicated that they will attend.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) In order for community or volunteer  
34 service performed by a participating student to be eligible for this  
35 program, the organization or institution must:

36 (a) Register with the office; and

37 (b) Be one of the following:

38 (i) A federal, state, or local governmental entity;

1 (ii) An institution of higher education located in the state of  
2 Washington;

3 (iii) An organization exempt from federal income tax under  
4 section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code;

5 (iv) A private sector for-profit business entity producing a good  
6 or providing a service for sale or resale to others, which can and  
7 agrees to provide hours of service for eligible students of a  
8 demonstratable benefit related to the student's postsecondary  
9 educational pursuits and which conducts business within the state of  
10 Washington; or

11 (v) Any other entity approved by the office.

12 (2) The following types of institutions, organizations, or  
13 entities are not eligible to participate:

14 (a) Any institution, organization, or entity directing students  
15 to perform service in positions that directly involve religious  
16 worship, exercise, or instruction;

17 (b) Any institution, organization, or entity directing students  
18 to perform service in positions that directly involve political  
19 activity, including partisan and nonpartisan political activity;

20 (c) Any institution, organization, or entity which does not  
21 comply with appropriate federal, state, and civil rights laws; and

22 (d) Any institution, organization, or entity in which a  
23 participating student is an owner, part owner, board member, or  
24 executive.

25 (3) An approved institution, organization, or entity must report  
26 the service hours of the participating students according to the  
27 process established by the office.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The office may adopt rules necessary for  
29 the effective and efficient implementation of this act.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act  
31 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
33 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
34 provided by June 30, 2025, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
35 act is null and void.

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