
SENATE BILL 5562

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Hansen, Conway, Lias, Nobles, Salomon, and Valdez

Read first time 01/29/25. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to students attending approved apprenticeship
2 programs; amending RCW 28B.92.030 and 28B.124.030; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 28B.77 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2022 c 166 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Council" means the student achievement council.

10 (2) "Financial aid" means either loans, grants, or both, to
11 students who demonstrate financial need enrolled or accepted for
12 enrollment as a student at institutions of higher education.

13 (3) "Financial need" means a demonstrated financial inability to
14 bear the total cost of education as directed in rule by the office.

15 (4) "Institution" or "institutions of higher education" means:

16 (a) Any public university, college, community college, or
17 technical college operated by the state of Washington or any
18 political subdivision thereof; or

19 (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the
20 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level
21 that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized

1 by rule of the council for the purposes of this section and that
2 agrees to and complies with program rules adopted pursuant to RCW
3 28B.92.150. However, any institution, branch, extension or facility
4 operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated with an
5 institution operating in another state must be:

6 (i) A separately accredited member institution of any such
7 accrediting association;

8 (ii) A branch of a member institution of an accrediting
9 association recognized by rule of the council for purposes of this
10 section, that is eligible for federal student financial aid
11 assistance and has operated as a nonprofit college or university
12 delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of twenty
13 consecutive years within the state of Washington, and has an annual
14 enrollment of at least seven hundred full-time equivalent students;

15 (iii) A nonprofit institution recognized by the state of
16 Washington as provided in RCW 28B.77.240; or

17 (iv) An approved apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04 RCW.

18 (5) "Maximum Washington college grant":

19 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of
20 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, is tuition and
21 estimated fees for fifteen quarter credit hours or the equivalent, as
22 determined by the office, including operating fees, building fees,
23 and services and activities fees.

24 (b) For students attending private four-year not-for-profit
25 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
26 academic year, is nine thousand seven hundred thirty-nine dollars and
27 may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth
28 factor.

29 (c) For students attending two-year private not-for-profit
30 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
31 academic year, is three thousand six hundred ninety-four dollars and
32 may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth
33 factor.

34 (d) For students attending four-year private for-profit
35 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
36 academic year, is eight thousand five hundred seventeen dollars and
37 may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth
38 factor.

39 (e) For students attending two-year private for-profit
40 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20

1 academic year, is two thousand eight hundred twenty-three dollars and
2 may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth
3 factor.

4 (f) For students attending Western Governors University-
5 Washington, as established in RCW 28B.77.240, in the 2019-20 academic
6 year, is five thousand six hundred nineteen dollars and may increase
7 each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth factor.

8 (g) For students attending approved apprenticeship programs,
9 beginning in the 2022-23 academic year, is the same amount as the
10 maximum Washington college grant for students attending two-year
11 institutions of higher education as defined in (a) of this subsection
12 to be used for tuition and fees (~~(, program supplies and equipment,~~
13 ~~and other costs that facilitate educational endeavors)~~). The amount
14 in determining the cost cannot include tuition and fees for students
15 attending approved apprenticeship programs that otherwise pay for the
16 cost of the tuition and fees, or its equivalent, through the approved
17 apprenticeship program or any other method that pays tuition and
18 fees, or their equivalent, for the student. The office shall assess
19 compliance with this requirement based on apprenticeship programs as
20 they existed as of July 1, 2022, in accordance with chapter 166, Laws
21 of 2022.

22 (6) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance.

23 (7) "Tuition growth factor" means an increase of no more than the
24 average annual percentage growth rate of the median hourly wage for
25 Washington for the previous fourteen years as the wage is determined
26 by the federal bureau of labor statistics.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.124.030 and 2022 c 166 s 4 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) All institutions of higher education (~~(, as defined in RCW~~
30 ~~28B.10.016,~~) must establish a policy for granting as many credits as
31 possible and appropriate (~~(,)~~) for related supplemental instruction in
32 active state apprenticeship programs (~~(, registered during or before~~
33 ~~July 1, 2022, by the 2028-29 school year. For all state registered~~
34 ~~apprenticeship programs approved after July 1, 2022, all institutions~~
35 ~~of higher education, as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, must establish a~~
36 ~~policy for granting as many credits, as possible and appropriate, for~~
37 ~~related supplemental instruction within six years of the program's~~
38 ~~registration. While establishing credits, institutions of higher~~
39 ~~education must consult with their faculty representatives. Credits~~

1 ~~are at the sole discretion of each institution of higher education~~
2 ~~and must be determined in consultation with their faculty~~
3 ~~representatives)).~~

4 (2) Credits for related supplemental instruction must be approved
5 within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed one year from the
6 date of the program's registration or the effective date of this
7 section. Exceptions may be made for good cause on a case-by-case
8 basis.

9 (3) Credits established by institutions of higher education are
10 not intended to impact the possible revision of previously approved
11 related supplemental instruction in a state registered apprenticeship
12 program.

13 (4) All credits granted for related supplemental instruction must
14 count towards a degree from an institution of higher education as of
15 July 1, 2026. The institution of higher education which granted the
16 credit need not be the same as the institution where the apprentice
17 receives the degree. The student achievement council shall ensure
18 that the statewide transfer of credit policy and agreement under RCW
19 28B.77.210 is designed to facilitate the transfer of credit and the
20 evaluation of transcripts for students attending approved
21 apprenticeship programs.

22 (5) For the purpose of this section, "institutions of higher
23 education" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28B.77
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 The council shall adopt statewide transfer and articulation
27 policies, in alignment with RCW 28B.124.030, that ensure efficient
28 transfer of credits for related supplemental instruction for students
29 attending approved apprenticeship programs across public two and
30 four-year institutions of higher education by July 1, 2026. Policies
31 may address, but are not limited to: Creation of a statewide system
32 of course equivalency; creation of transfer associate degrees;
33 statewide articulation agreements; applicability of technical courses
34 toward baccalaureate degrees; and other issues. The institutions of
35 higher education and the state board for community and technical
36 colleges shall cooperate with the council in developing the statewide

1 policies and shall provide support and staff resources as necessary
2 to assist in maintaining the policies.

--- **END** ---