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**SENATE BILL 5658**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hansen, Hasegawa, Slatter, and Valdez

Read first time 02/04/25. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the workforce education investment account;  
2 amending RCW 28B.92.205 and 28B.77.310; reenacting and amending RCW  
3 43.79.195; adding a new section to chapter 28B.92 RCW; and making an  
4 appropriation.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.205 and 2023 c 475 s 923 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) In addition to other eligibility requirements outlined in  
9 this chapter, students who demonstrate financial need are eligible to  
10 receive the Washington college grant.

11 (2) Financial need is as follows:

12 ~~((1) Until academic year 2020-21, students with family incomes~~  
13 ~~between zero and fifty percent of the state median family income,~~  
14 ~~adjusted for family size, shall receive the maximum Washington~~  
15 ~~college grant as defined in RCW 28B.92.030. Grants for students with~~  
16 ~~incomes between fifty-one and seventy percent of the state median~~  
17 ~~family income, adjusted for family size, shall be prorated at the~~  
18 ~~following percentages of the maximum Washington college grant amount:~~

19 ~~(a) Seventy percent for students with family incomes between~~  
20 ~~fifty-one and fifty-five percent of the state median family income;~~

1 ~~(b) Sixty-five percent for students with family incomes between~~  
2 ~~fifty-six and sixty percent of the state median family income;~~

3 ~~(c) Sixty percent for students with family incomes between sixty-~~  
4 ~~one and sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and~~

5 ~~(d) Fifty percent for students with family incomes between sixty-~~  
6 ~~six and seventy percent of the state median family income.~~

7 ~~(2) Beginning with academic year 2020-21, except during the~~  
8 ~~2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 academic years, students))~~

9 (a) Students with family incomes between zero and ~~((fifty-five))~~  
10 70 percent of the state median family income, adjusted for family  
11 size, shall receive the maximum Washington college grant as defined  
12 in RCW 28B.92.030 ~~((. During the 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25~~  
13 ~~academic years, students with family incomes between zero and sixty~~  
14 ~~percent of the state median family income, adjusted for family size,~~  
15 ~~shall receive the maximum Washington college grant.))~~; and

16 (b) Grants for students with incomes between ~~((fifty-six))~~ 71 and  
17 ~~((one hundred))~~ 100 percent of the state median family income,  
18 adjusted for family size, shall be prorated at the following  
19 percentages of the maximum Washington college grant amount:

20 ~~((a) Seventy))~~ (i) 50 percent for students with family incomes  
21 between ~~((fifty-six))~~ 71 and ~~((sixty))~~ 80 percent of the state median  
22 family income ~~((, except during the 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25~~  
23 ~~academic years))~~;

24 ~~((b) Sixty))~~ (ii) 25 percent for students with family incomes  
25 between ~~((sixty-one))~~ 81 and ~~((sixty-five))~~ 90 percent of the state  
26 median family income ~~((, except during the 2023-24 and 2024-25~~  
27 ~~academic years when student grant award shall not be prorated and~~  
28 ~~students shall receive the maximum award;~~

29 ~~(c) Fifty percent for students with family incomes between sixty-~~  
30 ~~six and seventy percent of the state median family income;~~

31 ~~(d) Twenty-four and one-half percent for students with family~~  
32 ~~incomes between seventy-one and seventy-five percent of the state~~  
33 ~~median family income))~~; and

34 ~~((e) Ten))~~ (iii) 10 percent for students with family incomes  
35 between ~~((seventy-six))~~ 91 and ~~((one hundred))~~ 100 percent of the  
36 state median family income.

37 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28B.92  
38 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) As part of the Washington college grant program, all  
2 Washington college grant recipients who qualify for the maximum  
3 Washington college grant, but who are not recipients of the college  
4 bound scholarship program under chapter 28B.118 RCW are entitled to  
5 receive an annual bridge grant of \$500.

6 (2) The office shall award bridge grants to eligible students  
7 beginning with the 2025-26 academic year.

8 (3) To receive the full bridge grant for which the student  
9 qualifies, the student needs to be enrolled in an institution of  
10 higher education on at least a half-time basis. Students enrolled  
11 less than half-time must receive a prorated bridge grant.

12 (4) The bridge grant must be applied to a student's financial aid  
13 package after all other gift aid has been awarded to the student.

14 (5) As used in this section, "bridge grant" means an annual  
15 stipend provided in addition to the Washington college grant to  
16 provide supplementary financial support to low-income students to  
17 cover higher education expenses beyond tuition and fees, such as  
18 books, lab fees, supplies, technology, transportation, housing, and  
19 child care.

20 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.79.195 and 2021 c 334 s 971 and 2021 c 170 s 6  
21 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

22 (1) The workforce education investment account is created in the  
23 state treasury. All revenues from the workforce investment surcharge  
24 created in RCW 82.04.299 and those revenues as specified under RCW  
25 82.04.290(2)(c) must be deposited directly into the account. Moneys  
26 in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures  
27 from the account may be used only for higher education programs,  
28 higher education operations, higher education compensation, state-  
29 funded student aid programs, and workforce development including  
30 career connected learning as defined by RCW 28C.30.020. Beginning in  
31 fiscal year 2025, and each year thereafter, an amount equal to all  
32 the revenues derived from the surcharge imposed under RCW 82.04.299  
33 must be used exclusively for higher education programs that lead to a  
34 credential in advanced computing, as defined in RCW 82.04.299, and  
35 related science, technology, engineering, and math computing fields  
36 to increase access and equity, especially for students from  
37 traditionally underserved communities. When the number of qualified  
38 Washington state applicants exceeds the available enrollments at the  
39 University of Washington Paul G. Allen school of computer science by

1 100, then additional enrollments must be automatically added and  
2 funded from the surcharge imposed under RCW 82.04.299 to accommodate  
3 the additional demand. The University of Washington shall submit a  
4 report, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, to the appropriate  
5 committees of the legislature annually, beginning June 30, 2026, on  
6 program graduation rates, waitlist for entry into the program, time  
7 to degree completion, and degrees awarded.

8 (2) Expenditures from the workforce education investment account  
9 must be used to supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and  
10 local funding for higher education.

11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.77.310 and 2023 c 282 s 1 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (1) The workforce education investment accountability and  
14 oversight board is established. The board consists of 18 members, as  
15 provided in this subsection:

16 (a) Four members of the legislature consisting of the chairs and  
17 ranking minority members of the respective higher education and  
18 workforce development committees of the senate and house of  
19 representatives, ex officio; and

20 (b) The following members appointed by the governor with the  
21 consent of the senate:

22 (i) Five members representing the businesses described in RCW  
23 82.04.299 or subject to the tax rate under RCW 82.04.290(2)(a)(i);

24 (ii) Two members representing labor organizations, one of which  
25 must have expertise in registered apprenticeships and training a  
26 high-demand workforce and one of which must represent faculty at the  
27 four-year institutions of higher education;

28 (iii) Two members representing the institutions of higher  
29 education, as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, one of which must be from  
30 the four-year sector and one of which must be from the community and  
31 technical college sector;

32 (iv) Two members representing students, one of which must be a  
33 community and technical college student;

34 (v) One member representing the independent, not-for-profit  
35 higher education institutions;

36 (vi) One member representing the workforce training and education  
37 coordinating board created under RCW 28C.18.020; and

38 (vii) One member representing the student achievement council,  
39 established under this chapter.

1 (2) Except for ex officio and student members, board members  
2 shall hold their offices for a term of three years until their  
3 successors are appointed. Student board members shall hold one-year  
4 terms.

5 (3) The board shall have two cochair. One cochair shall be one  
6 of the chairs of the respective higher education and workforce  
7 development committees of the legislature and the other cochair shall  
8 be one of the board members representing the businesses described in  
9 RCW 82.04.299 or subject to the tax rate under RCW  
10 82.04.290(2)(a)(i). The cochairs shall hold the position for a one-  
11 year term. The board members shall elect the cochairs annually.

12 (4) Nine voting members of the board constitute a quorum for the  
13 transaction of business. The board shall meet four times a year.

14 (5) Staff support for the board shall be provided by the student  
15 achievement council established in this chapter. The student  
16 achievement council must provide the board and the higher education  
17 committees of the legislature with a report by August 1st of each  
18 year that details the expenditures from the workforce education  
19 investment account created in RCW 43.79.195. The report must provide  
20 the amount and the outcome of expenditures for higher education  
21 programs that lead to a credential in advanced computing, as defined  
22 in RCW 82.04.299, and related science, technology, engineering, and  
23 math computing fields.

24 (6) The purposes of the board are to:

25 (a) Provide guidance and recommendations to the legislature on  
26 what workforce education priorities should be funded with the  
27 workforce education investment account; and

28 (b) Ensure accountability that the workforce education  
29 investments funded with the workforce education investment account  
30 are producing the intended results and are effectively increasing  
31 student success and career readiness, such as by increasing  
32 retention, completion, and job placement rates.

33 (7) The board shall consult data from the education data center  
34 established under RCW 43.41.400 and the workforce training and  
35 education coordinating board established under this chapter when  
36 reviewing and determining whether workforce education investments  
37 funded from the workforce education investment account are  
38 effectively increasing student success and career readiness. The  
39 workforce training and education coordinating board shall maintain  
40 the workforce education investment accountability and oversight board

1 data dashboard on a public-facing portal and work with the board to  
2 update and modify the data dashboard as new performance metrics are  
3 identified.

4 (8) The board shall report its recommendations to the appropriate  
5 committees of the legislature by (~~August 1st~~) December 31st of each  
6 year.

7 (9) For the purposes of this section, "board" means the workforce  
8 education investment accountability and oversight board established  
9 in this section.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of \$6,000,000, or as much thereof  
11 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal biennium ending  
12 June 30, 2027, from the workforce education investment account—state  
13 to the University of Washington for the sole purpose of awarding an  
14 additional 100 degrees by fiscal year 2029 at the University of  
15 Washington Paul G. Allen school of computer science and engineering.

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