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**BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE**

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BILL REQ. #: S-5427.3/18 3rd draft

ATTY/TYPIST: PW:roy

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Expanding eligibility for the state need grant.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding eligibility for the state need  
2 grant; amending RCW 28B.92.030, 28B.92.060, and 43.88C.010; adding a  
3 new section to chapter 28B.92 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state need  
6 grant is essential to helping the state's lowest-income undergraduate  
7 students pursue degrees or retrain for new careers. Yet, paying for  
8 college remains difficult for middle and lower income families. It is  
9 the intent of the legislature to ensure that the lowest income  
10 families receive state need grant funds so that more students may  
11 access and succeed in higher education in Washington state.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2013 c 248 s 2 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 As used in this chapter:

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

16 (2) "Disadvantaged student" means a posthigh school student who  
17 by reason of adverse cultural, educational, environmental,  
18 experiential, familial or other circumstances is unable to qualify  
19 for enrollment as a full-time student in an institution of higher  
20 education, who would otherwise qualify as a needy student, and who is

1 attending an institution of higher education under an established  
2 program designed to qualify the student for enrollment as a full-time  
3 student.

4 (3) "Financial aid" means loans and/or grants to needy students  
5 enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a student at institutions of  
6 higher education.

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

8 (a) Any public university, college, community college, or  
9 technical college operated by the state of Washington or any  
10 political subdivision thereof; or

11 (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the  
12 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level  
13 that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized  
14 by rule of the council for the purposes of this section and that  
15 agrees to and complies with program rules adopted pursuant to RCW  
16 28B.92.150. However, any institution, branch, extension or facility  
17 operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated with an  
18 institution operating in another state must be:

19 (i) A separately accredited member institution of any such  
20 accrediting association;

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

29 (iii) A nonprofit institution recognized by the state of  
30 Washington as provided in RCW 28B.77.240.

31 (5) "Maximum state need grant award" means an award equal to the  
32 same percentage of operating fees, building fees, and services and  
33 activities fees as were covered in fiscal year 2018.

34 (6) "Needy student" means a posthigh school student of an  
35 institution of higher education who demonstrates to the office the  
36 financial inability, either through the student's parents, family  
37 and/or personally, to meet the total cost of board, room, books, and  
38 tuition and incidental fees for any semester or quarter. "Needy  
39 student" also means an opportunity internship graduate as defined by

1 RCW 28C.18.162 who enrolls in a postsecondary program of study as  
2 defined in RCW 28C.18.162 within one year of high school graduation.

3 ~~((+6))~~ (7) "Office" means the office of student financial  
4 assistance.

5 ~~((+7))~~ (8) "Placebound student" means a student who (a) is  
6 unable to complete a college program because of family or employment  
7 commitments, health concerns, monetary inability, or other similar  
8 factors; and (b) may be influenced by the receipt of an enhanced  
9 student financial aid award to complete a baccalaureate degree at an  
10 eligible institution.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.92.060 and 2012 c 229 s 558 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 In awarding need grants, the office shall proceed substantially  
14 as follows: ~~((PROVIDED, That nothing contained herein shall be  
15 construed to prevent the office, in the exercise of its sound  
16 discretion, from following another procedure when the best interest  
17 of the program so dictates:))~~

18 (1) In the 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years, the office shall  
19 annually select the financial aid award recipients from among  
20 Washington residents applying for student financial aid ~~((who have  
21 been ranked according to))~~ as follows:

22 (a) For students whose median family income is at or below fifty  
23 percent of the state median family income, the student shall receive  
24 the maximum state need grant award; and

25 (b) For students whose median family income is above fifty  
26 percent of the state median family income, the office shall  
27 prioritize financial aid awards in the following way:

28 (i) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family  
29 contribution; and

30 ~~((+b))~~ (ii) Other considerations, such as whether the student is  
31 a former foster or homeless youth, or is a placebound student who has  
32 completed an associate of arts or associate of science degree or its  
33 equivalent.

34 (2) In the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years, the office shall  
35 annually select the financial aid award recipients from among  
36 Washington residents applying for student financial aid as follows:

37 (a) For students whose median family income is at or below sixty  
38 percent of the state median family income, the student shall receive  
39 the maximum state need grant award; and

1 (b) For students whose median family income is above sixty  
2 percent of the state median family income, the office shall  
3 prioritize financial aid awards in the following way:

4 (i) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family  
5 contribution; and

6 (ii) Other considerations, such as whether the student is a  
7 former foster or homeless youth, or is a placebound student who has  
8 completed an associate of arts or associate of science degree or its  
9 equivalent.

10 (3) In the 2022-23 academic year and all subsequent academic  
11 years, the office shall annually select the financial aid award  
12 recipients from among Washington residents applying for student  
13 financial aid as follows:

14 (a) For students whose median family income is at or below  
15 seventy percent of the state median family income, the student shall  
16 receive the maximum state need grant award; and

17 (b) For students whose median family income is above seventy  
18 percent of the state median family income, the office shall  
19 prioritize financial aid awards in the following way:

20 (i) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family  
21 contribution; and

22 (ii) Other considerations, such as whether the student is a  
23 former foster or homeless youth, or is a placebound student who has  
24 completed an associate of arts or associate of science degree or its  
25 equivalent.

26 (4) Beginning in the 2018-19 academic year, the state need grant  
27 shall be awarded first to students based on the criteria in  
28 subsections (1) through (3) of this section. The financial need of  
29 the next highest ranked students shall be met by grants depending  
30 upon the evaluation of financial need until the total allocation has  
31 been disbursed. Funds from grants which are declined, forfeited or  
32 otherwise unused shall be reawarded until disbursed, except that  
33 eligible former foster youth shall be assured receipt of a grant. The  
34 office, in consultation with four-year institutions of higher  
35 education, the council, and the state board for community and  
36 technical colleges, shall develop award criteria and methods of  
37 disbursement based on level of need, and not solely rely on a first-  
38 come, first-served basis.

39 ~~((+3))~~ (5) A student shall be eligible to receive a state need  
40 grant for up to five years, or the credit or clock hour equivalent of

1 five years, or up to one hundred twenty-five percent of the published  
2 length of time of the student's program. A student may not start a  
3 new associate degree program as a state need grant recipient until at  
4 least five years have elapsed since earning an associate degree as a  
5 need grant recipient, except that a student may earn two associate  
6 degrees concurrently. Qualifications for renewal will include  
7 maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an  
8 eligible program as determined by the office. Should the recipient  
9 terminate his or her enrollment for any reason during the academic  
10 year, the unused portion of the grant shall be returned to the state  
11 educational grant fund by the institution according to the  
12 institution's own policy for issuing refunds, except as provided in  
13 RCW 28B.92.070.

14 ~~((+4))~~ (6) In computing financial need, the office shall  
15 determine a maximum student expense budget allowance, not to exceed  
16 an amount equal to the total maximum student expense budget at the  
17 public institutions plus the current average state appropriation per  
18 student for operating expense in the public institutions. Any child  
19 support payments received by students who are parents attending less  
20 than half-time shall not be used in computing financial need.

21 ~~((+5))~~ (7)(a) A student who is enrolled in three to six credit-  
22 bearing quarter credits, or the equivalent semester credits, may  
23 receive a grant for up to one academic year before beginning a  
24 program that leads to a degree or certificate.

25 (b) An eligible student enrolled on a less-than-full-time basis  
26 shall receive a prorated portion of his or her state need grant for  
27 any academic period in which he or she is enrolled on a less-than-  
28 full-time basis, as long as funds are available.

29 (c) An institution of higher education may award a state need  
30 grant to an eligible student enrolled in three to six credit-bearing  
31 quarter credits, or the semester equivalent, on a provisional basis  
32 if:

33 (i) The student has not previously received a state need grant  
34 from that institution;

35 (ii) The student completes the required free application for  
36 federal student aid;

37 (iii) The institution has reviewed the student's financial  
38 condition, and the financial condition of the student's family if the  
39 student is a dependent student, and has determined that the student  
40 is likely eligible for a state need grant; and

1 (iv) The student has signed a document attesting to the fact that  
2 the financial information provided on the free application for  
3 federal student aid and any additional financial information provided  
4 directly to the institution is accurate and complete, and that the  
5 student agrees to repay the institution for the grant amount if the  
6 student submitted false or incomplete information.

7 ~~((+6+))~~ (8) As used in this section, "former foster youth" means  
8 a person who is at least eighteen years of age, but not more than  
9 twenty-four years of age, who was a dependent of the department of  
10 social and health services at the time he or she attained the age of  
11 eighteen.

12 (9) As used in this section, "homeless youth" means a person who  
13 was verified on or after July 1st of the prior academic year as an  
14 unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, before age twenty-one.

15 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2015 c 128 s 2 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council  
18 shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four  
19 individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of  
20 the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of  
21 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from  
22 among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other  
23 officers as the members deem necessary.

24 (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to  
25 supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this  
26 chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

27 (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of  
28 the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the  
29 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each  
30 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year  
31 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by  
32 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The  
33 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes  
34 of this section.

35 (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation  
36 of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the  
37 official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If  
38 the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in  
39 RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without

1 approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved  
2 by the council.

3 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for  
4 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the  
5 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on  
6 assumptions specified by the member.

7 (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without  
8 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
9 in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the  
10 council or on official business authorized by the council.  
11 Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel  
12 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

13 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

14 (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement  
15 requirements and require the services of public assistance programs,  
16 state correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional  
17 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common  
18 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, and  
19 adoption support;

20 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington  
21 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an  
22 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030;

23 (c) The number of students who are eligible for the state need  
24 grant under RCW 28B.92.060 and are expected to attend an institution  
25 participating in the state need grant program; and

26 (d) The number of children who are eligible, as defined in RCW  
27 ((43.215.405)) 43.216.505, to participate in, and the number of  
28 children actually served by, the early childhood education and  
29 assistance program.

30 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary  
31 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care  
32 programs as a courtesy.

33 (9) The caseload forecast council shall forecast youth  
34 participating in the extended foster care program pursuant to RCW  
35 74.13.031 separately from other children who are residing in foster  
36 care and who are under eighteen years of age.

37 (10) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the  
38 definitions provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    A new section is added to chapter 28B.92  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        A fee is assessed in the amount of one dollar and fifty cents to  
4    students at institutions participating in the state need grant  
5    program for each term in which they are enrolled for the purposes of  
6    administering the state need grant program. The fee shall be  
7    collected by the institutions participating in the state need grant  
8    program and remitted to the state treasurer.

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