

CHAPTER 210

[Substitute Senate Bill No. 5558]

WASHINGTON SCHOLARS PROGRAM—RECIPIENTS MAY ATTEND PRIVATE COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES

AN ACT Relating to the Washington scholars program; amending RCW 28A.58.822; adding new sections to chapter 28B.80 RCW; and creating a new section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 28B.80 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Recipients of the Washington scholars award under RCW 28A.58-.820 through 28A.58.830 choosing to attend an independent college or university in this state, as defined in subsection (4) of this section, may receive grants under this section if moneys are available. The higher education coordinating board shall distribute grants to eligible students under this section from moneys appropriated for this purpose. The individual grants shall not exceed, on a yearly basis, the yearly, full-time, resident, undergraduate tuition and service and activities fees in effect at the state-funded research universities. Grants shall be contingent upon the private institution matching on at least a dollar-for-dollar basis, either with actual money or by a waiver of fees, the amount of the grant received by the student from the state. The higher education coordinating board shall establish procedures, by rule, to disburse the awards as direct grants to the students.

(2) To qualify for the grant, recipients shall enter the independent college or university within three years of high school graduation and maintain a minimum grade point average at the college or university equivalent to 3.30. Students shall be eligible for grants for a maximum of twelve quarters or eight semesters of undergraduate study and may transfer among independent colleges and universities during that period and continue to receive the grant. If the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 3.30 during the first three quarters or two semesters, that student may petition the higher education coordinating board which shall have the authority to establish a probationary period until such time as the student's grade point average meets required standards.

(3) No grant shall be awarded to any student who is pursuing a degree in theology.

(4) As used in this section, "independent college or university" means a private, nonprofit educational institution, the main campus of which is permanently situated in the state, open to residents of the state, providing programs of education beyond the high school level leading at least to the baccalaureate degree, and accredited by the northwest association of schools and colleges as of the effective date of this section and other institutions as may be developed that are approved by the higher education coordinating

board as meeting equivalent standards as those institutions accredited under this section.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28B.80 RCW to read as follows:

Students receiving grants under section 1 of this act or waivers under RCW 28B.15.543 shall be entitled to transfer between public and independent colleges or universities. Students transferring to a public institution of higher education from an independent college or university are entitled to a tuition waiver while enrolled at such institution during the period of eligibility under RCW 28B.15.543. Students transferring to an independent college or university from a public institution of higher education are entitled to a grant under section 1 of this act while enrolled at such college or university during the period of eligibility under section 1 of this act. The total grants or waivers for any one student shall not exceed twelve quarters or eight semesters of undergraduate study.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Section 1 of this act shall apply to persons holding the Washington scholars award as of the effective date of this section as well as persons holding the award after the effective date of this section.

Sec. 4. Section 2, chapter 54, Laws of 1981 as amended by section 1, chapter 465, Laws of 1987 and RCW 28A.58.822 are each amended to read as follows:

There is established by the legislature of the state of Washington the Washington state scholars program. The purposes of this program annually are to:

(1) Provide for the selection of three seniors graduating from high schools in each legislative district who have distinguished themselves academically among their peers.

(2) Maximize public awareness of the academic achievement, leadership ability, and community contribution of Washington state public and private high school seniors through appropriate recognition ceremonies and events at both the local and state level.

(3) Provide a listing of the Washington scholars to all Washington state public and private colleges and universities to facilitate communication regarding academic programs and scholarship availability.

(4) Make available a state level mechanism for utilization of private funds for scholarship awards to outstanding high school seniors.

(5) Provide, on written request and with student permission, a listing of the Washington scholars to private scholarship selection committees for notification of scholarship availability.

(6) Permit a waiver of tuition and services and activities fees as provided for in RCW 28B.15.543 and grants under section 1 of this 1988 act.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1988.

Passed the House March 2, 1988.

Approved by the Governor March 23, 1988.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 23, 1988.

CHAPTER 211

[Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1404]

NURSING—STUDY METHODS TO MAKE PROFESSION MORE ATTRACTIVE— LICENSURE REVISIONS

AN ACT Relating to nursing; amending RCW 18.78.050, 18.88.150, 18.88.080, 18.78-.060, 18.88.190, 18.88.200, and 18.88.220; adding new sections to chapter 18.78 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.88 RCW; creating new sections; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature recognizes the need to increase the pool of available nursing resources to meet new demands on the health care delivery system. The more complex nature of illnesses, constraints on reimbursement pressuring accelerated treatment and earlier patient discharge, the explosion of technology, and the parameters established by third-party payers requiring intense monitoring, may be diverting nurses from the bedside into early burnout, retirement, or employment elsewhere.

The state's nursing educational program, encompassing nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, and licensed (registered) nurses should be better articulated for career mobility in order to make the nursing profession more attractive to individuals and for retaining qualified nurses in the health care delivery system. Barriers to licensure and employment should be eliminated to increase the number of nurses available for patient care.

The legislature declares this act is in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The state board of nursing, in consultation with the state board of practical nursing, the superintendent of public instruction, vocational education agencies, the state board for community college education, and the higher education coordinating board, shall:

(1) Investigate current education programs for nurses in all settings, such as high schools, vocational-technical schools, community colleges, and universities, to identify the scope of nursing education programs in the state;

(2) Develop, for the purpose of approving nursing education programs for applicants for licensure, a model for articulation and career mobility to enable nurses at every level of the profession to progress to higher levels and advance their professional status by integrating into a recognized nursing curriculum;