
HOUSE BILL 1722

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Spanel, Jacobsen, Wood, Valle, Rasmussen, Wang and Miller; by request of Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Read first time February 6, 1991. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to graduate school fellowships; and adding a new
2 chapter to Title 28B RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature's review of graduate
5 programs in this state reveals that there is a critical shortage of
6 faculty and students from various ethnic groups. The legislature
7 further finds that in the next ten years the percentage of various
8 ethnic groups of undergraduates in the state's higher education system
9 will increase dramatically and the need for higher education faculty
10 will also increase. It is hereby declared a matter of public policy of
11 this state to improve the quality and diversity of the state's graduate
12 and undergraduate educational programs.

13 In accomplishing this goal there is a need for diversity of ethnic
14 representation not only in graduate students but also in faculty
15 representation in higher education in this state. The legislature

1 finds that there is a major financial cost for the state to train
2 faculty necessary to accomplish the declared purpose of increasing the
3 ethnic diversity in higher education.

4 This financial aid program for graduate students will facilitate
5 expanding the representation of underrepresented groups among both
6 students and faculty. This will assist in meeting the overall needs of
7 the state to have diversity of representation in both students and
8 faculty and should affirmatively result in the overall improvement of
9 the quality and diversity of the ethnic students in higher education of
10 the state of Washington.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
12 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
13 chapter.

14 (1) "Conditional fellowship" means a loan that is forgiven in whole
15 or in part if the recipient renders service as a teaching faculty
16 member.

17 (2) "Institution of higher education" or "institution" means a
18 public or private college or university that is accredited by an
19 accrediting association recognized as such by rule of the higher
20 education coordinating board.

21 (3) "Board" means the higher education coordinating board.

22 (4) "Eligible student" means a student who is admitted to an
23 eligible graduate degree program at an institution of higher education
24 located in the state of Washington, who demonstrates achievement of at
25 least a 3.0 in the last four semesters or six quarters of baccalaureate
26 work, unless the grade point average requirement is waived based upon
27 board criteria, from an accredited institution of higher education, and
28 who has a declared intention to teach at an institution of higher
29 education upon program completion. Preference shall be given to

1 Washington residents as defined by RCW 28B.15.012 and 28B.15.013. The
2 student shall be of an ethnic representation found by the board to have
3 a low rate of participation among faculty in that individual's
4 discipline. The student shall not be eligible for a fellowship if it
5 will be used for any programs that include religious worship, exercise,
6 or instruction or to pursue a degree in theology. To remain eligible
7 after initial selection, the student must be enrolled full time and
8 maintain satisfactory academic progress.

9 (5) "Eligible graduate degree program" means a program that has as
10 its primary purpose the preparation of individuals for careers in
11 university or college teaching and scholarship. At the doctoral level,
12 this means Ph.D. programs only. At the master's level, eligible
13 programs will be primarily those in the arts and sciences, rather than
14 those leading to professional practice.

15 (6) "Forgiven" or "to forgive" or "forgiveness" means to render
16 service as a teaching faculty at an institution of higher education in
17 lieu of monetary repayment.

18 (7) "Satisfied" means paid-in-full.

19 (8) "Participant" means an eligible student who has received a
20 conditional fellowship under this chapter.

21 (9) "Ethnic" or "ethnic representation" means a group of Americans
22 with a common ethnic heritage selected by the board periodically for
23 program consideration due to low rates of participation by the group in
24 graduate education.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The graduate conditional teaching
26 fellowship program is established as an award for excellent
27 undergraduate performance and as a contractual commitment on behalf of
28 the applicants to teach in graduate or undergraduate programs. The

1 program shall be administered by the board. In administering the
2 program, the board shall have the following powers and duties:

3 (1) Select students to receive conditional scholarships, with the
4 assistance of a screening committee appointed by the board and composed
5 of faculty and others in government, business, and education;

6 (2) Adopt necessary rules and guidelines;

7 (3) Publicize the program;

8 (4) Collect and manage repayments from students who do not meet
9 their teaching obligations under this chapter; and

10 (5) Solicit and accept grants and donations from public and private
11 sources for the program.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The board shall establish a planning
13 committee to develop criteria for the screening and selection of
14 recipients of the conditional fellowships. These criteria shall
15 emphasize factors demonstrating excellence including but not limited to
16 superior scholastic achievement, leadership ability, community
17 contributions, and an ability to act as a role model for ethnic
18 minority students.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The board shall award conditional
20 fellowships to eligible students from the funds appropriated to the
21 board for this purpose, or from any private donations, or any other
22 funds given to the board for this program. The amount of the
23 conditional fellowship awarded an individual shall be ten thousand
24 dollars per academic year plus funds sufficient to cover required
25 tuition and fees not to exceed charges established for the state's
26 research universities. Doctoral students are eligible to receive a
27 conditional fellowship for a maximum of four years, if satisfactory
28 progress is established. Master's students are eligible to receive a

1 conditional fellowship for a maximum of two years, if satisfactory
2 progress is established.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) Participants in the conditional
4 fellowship program incur an obligation to repay the conditional
5 fellowship, with interest to be set by the board, unless they satisfy
6 a service requirement. The service requirement is to teach for a
7 specified period in an institution of higher education under rules
8 adopted by the board. Master's students must satisfy the service
9 requirement by teaching three years at an institution of higher
10 education in the state of Washington. Doctoral students must satisfy
11 the service requirement by teaching for five years in an institution of
12 higher education, at least three of which must be in the state of
13 Washington.

14 (2) The terms of the repayment, including deferral of the interest,
15 shall be consistent with the terms of the federal guaranteed loan
16 program.

17 (3) The period for repayment shall be ten years, with payments
18 accruing quarterly commencing nine months from the date the participant
19 completes or discontinues the course of study.

20 (4) The entire principal and the interest of this loan shall be
21 forgiven at a ratio of one-third of the borrower's total obligation per
22 year for master's students, or one-fifth of the total per year for
23 doctoral students until the borrower's entire service obligation is
24 satisfied or the borrower ceases to teach at an eligible college or
25 university. Should the participant cease to teach at an institution of
26 higher education before the participant's repayment obligation is
27 completed, payments on the unsatisfied portion of the principal and
28 interest shall begin the next payment period and continue until the
29 remainder of the participant's repayment obligation is satisfied.

1 (5) The board is responsible for collection of repayments made
2 under this section and shall exercise due diligence in such collection,
3 maintaining all necessary records to ensure that maximum repayments are
4 made. Collection and servicing of repayments under this section shall
5 be pursued using the full extent of the law, including wage garnishment
6 if necessary, and shall be performed by entities approved for such
7 servicing by the Washington student loan guaranty association or its
8 successor agency. The board is responsible to forgive all or parts of
9 such repayments under the criteria established in this section and
10 shall maintain all necessary records of forgiven payments.

11 (6) Receipts from the payment of principal or interest or any other
12 subsidies to which the board as administrator is entitled, which are
13 paid by or on behalf of participants under this section, shall be
14 deposited with the board and shall be used to cover the costs of
15 granting the conditional fellowships, maintaining necessary records,
16 and making collections under subsection (5) of this section. The board
17 shall maintain accurate records of these costs, and all receipts beyond
18 those necessary to pay such costs shall be used to grant conditional
19 fellowships to eligible students.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The board may modify the conditions of the
21 service requirement, except for the length of service, and of the terms
22 of repayment in individual cases where special circumstances warrant.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act shall
24 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If any provision of this act or its
26 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
27 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other

1 persons or circumstances is not affected.