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Legislative Update

Only two weeks remain of the legislative session. All indications are that this session will conclude by **April 22** and possibly one or two days early. Negotiations on the budget will occur to reconcile the differences between the house and senate versions of the budget (comparisons are included on page 2).

The deadline to consider bills in fiscal committees was April 2nd and many financial aid bills are now being considered by the full Legislature, while several appear to have died (see page 4 for financial aid related bills that survived the cutoffs).

Recent Floor Action on FA Related Bills

The **College Bound Scholarship** (E2SSB 5098) was approved by House Appropriations. The program will target middle school students from low-income families to provide scholarship assistance. An amendment offered in Appropriations to increase the "C" average high school graduation requirement to a "B" average was rejected.

The Senate passed **GET Ready for Math & Science** (E2SHB 1779) with a vote of 47-1. It was amended to clarify scholarships would be awarded to the extent funds (state and private matching funds) are available. The bill will return to the House for possible concurrence.

Ways & Means also passed **Passport to College** (SHB 1131) which is now in Rules Committee. The bill, which provides scholarship assistance to former foster youth, was revised to narrow eligibility requirements and creates the program as a pilot expiring in 2013.

Ways & Means passed **Opportunity Grants** (2SHB 1096) with an amendment. Recipients no longer have priority over other students for future state financial aid. The bill now sits on the floor calendar awaiting action by the full Senate.

Legislation (ESB 5385) authorizing the Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority to originate **educational loans** was approved by the House Tuesday, and is on its way to the governor.

Biennial Proposed Budget Comparison

Comparison of SFA Items - Proposed Budgets (Dollars in Millions)					
Program / Activity		Bill # or Where Requested	Governor's Budget	House Budget	Senate Budget
1	GET Ready for Math & Science Scholarships	E2SHB 1779 SSB 5555 & Washington Learns	\$14.0	\$14.0	\$0.0
2	College Bound Scholarship	E2SSB 5098 & Washington Learns	\$5.0	\$0.0	\$8.0
3	Foster Care Passport to College	ESHB 1131 2SSB 5555	\$0.0	\$2.5	\$2.6
4	Opportunity Grants ¹	2SHB 1096 & Washington Learns	\$5.0	\$15.0	\$0.0
5	Future Teachers Conditional Scholarships, Alternative Routes to Teaching Conditional Scholarships ²	Washington Learns	\$8.5	\$7.5	\$11.3
6	Keep pace with tuition and enrollments increases ³ (SNG, SWS, WAVE, Scholars)	HECB Request	\$28.8	\$32.9	\$36.4
7	GEAR UP Expansion	HECB Request	\$2.5	\$2.5	\$2.5
8	GEAR UP Scholarships	HECB Request	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$0.0
9	Scholarship Clearinghouse	HECB Request	\$0.26	\$0.26	\$0.26
10	College and Financial Aid Information Outreach	HECB Request	\$0	\$0	\$0.71

¹ Opportunity Grants will be administered by the SBCTC.

² Funding is for both the Future Teachers and Conditional Scholarship programs and Alternative Route program. The Governor and House proposed budgets provide that \$500,000 of the funding go to the creation of SWS internship positions in the K-12 schools in the areas of math and science. Each budget includes funding for Alternative Routes, a portion of which will be applied to mentor stipends and the remainder to conditional scholarships.

³ All three budgets adhere to the principle of holding SNG and SWS recipients harmless from the effects of public sector tuition increases as well as fully funding the Washington Scholar and WAVE awards. The difference between the "keep pace" proposals are as follows.

- The Governor and House propose tuition increases of 5% per year for the four-year publics and 2% per year for the CTC's.
- The House also proposes to add about 3,800 additional undergraduate FTEs per year to the public institution enrollments.
- The Senate proposes tuition increases of 7% for the public doctoral schools, 5% per year for the regional universities, and 2% per year for the CTC's.
- The Senate also proposes to increase undergraduate resident enrollments by about 4,400 additional FTE's per year.
- The House and Governor each included \$2.8 million for expansion of SNG to less-than-halftime students if legislation passes. The Senate does not fund less-than-halftime.
- The Senate included \$18.9 million in funding to expand SNG to 75% MFI. If adopted, awards to students would be equal to 50% of the maximum. The House assumes the income cutoff remains at 65% MFI.

Biennial Proposed Budget Comparison, Continued

1. GET Ready for Math & Science Scholarships (E2SHB 1779/SSB 5555)

This proposal creates conditional scholarships using GET units for students who pursue math or science majors and agree to work in related fields.

2. College Bound Scholarship (E2SSB 5098)

This initiative creates a tuition scholarship program for students from low-income families selected in the 7th grade. Family income upon high school graduation shall be up to 65% MFI. Awards will cover tuition and fees plus \$500 for books less any state grant aid and can be disbursed via GET units.

3. Foster Care Passport to College (ESHB 1131/2SSB 5555)

This proposal creates the passport to college promise program to increase outreach to foster care youth regarding higher education and financial aid, and provides financial aid to former foster youth and incentive funding for institutions which successfully recruit and retain these youth.

4. Opportunity Grants (2SHB 1096)

This bill provides funding for low-income students enrolled in eligible programs in two-year colleges and is administered by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Funding covers tuition and fees and \$1,000 for books.

5. Future Teachers & Alternative Route Conditional Scholarships

All three proposed budgets provide funding to expand the Future Teachers conditional scholarship and loan repayment program as well as the Alternative Route program for students who complete teaching programs and teach in Washington in certain subjects.

6. Keep pace with tuition and enrollments (SNG, SWS, WAVE, Scholars)

Each of the three budgets provide funds to increase funding on a dollar for dollar basis to four financial aid programs as tuition rates and enrollments are increased. The house budget assumes that less than halftime students will be eligible.

7. GEAR UP Expansion

All three budgets provide funding to expand GEAR UP. To meet higher college going rates, this initiative expands services to school districts that have high enrollment in the free and reduced-priced lunch program and do not have other meaningful or structured college access programs.

8. GEAR UP Scholarships

This funding fulfills the state ' s obligation to provide scholarships to enrolled students who were program participants and earned scholarships from 1999 to 2005.

9. Scholarship Clearinghouse

All three budgets provide funding for the HECB to maintain the clearinghouse. A coalition of public and private partners is developing an on-line scholarship system for Washington students that would be maintained by the HECB.

10. College and Financial Aid Information Outreach

Working with high schools and colleges, this initiative provides financial aid and college information targeting high school students and families, single parents, low-income working adults, first-generation students, and immigrant communities. The project also is to determine whether a one-stop web portal for college access would be effective .

Summary of FA Related Bills

BILL #	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
ESB 5002	Changing tuition waivers for families of fallen veterans and national guard members	Schools must waive tuition and fees for children and spouses of eligible veterans or national guard members who died, are permanently or totally disabled, or are missing in action.
SSB 5039	State Investment Board to administer scholarship endowment funds	Provides that the investment of funds from all scholarship endowment programs administered by the HECB be managed by the State Investment Board.
ESB 5402	Establish additional requirements for private vocational schools	Amends statute that outlines requirements for private vocational schools eligibility to maintain a license in this state.
E2SSB 5098	College Bound Scholarship	Creates a tuition scholarship program for students from low-income families. Students are notified of eligibility beginning in their 7 th grade. Awards will cover public sector tuition and fee levels plus \$500 for books, less any state funding based on tuition. Disbursements may be via GET units or cash.
SSB 5101	Expanding tuition waivers to include certain certified instructional staff	Amends state employee tuition waiver statute to include teachers and certain certified instructional staff.
2SHB 1096	Creating postsecondary opportunity programs	Provides funding for low-income students enrolled in eligible programs in public and private two-year colleges. Funding covers tuition and fees and \$1,000 for books and supplies. Funding is limited to 45 credits or three years. The SBCTC and partners shall identify and market high demand programs.
ESHB 1131	Passport to college promise program	Creates the passport to college promise program to increase outreach to foster care youth regarding higher education and financial aid and provides financial aid to former foster care youth.
HB 1224	Regarding cost savings on course materials for students at community and technical colleges	Amends statute to include community and technical college students.
ESB 5385	Authorizing the WHEFA to originate and purchase educational loans and to issue student loan revenue	Authorizes the Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority to originate and acquire educational loans and to issue non-recourse revenue bonds to be paid from such loans.
E2SHB 1906	Improving mathematics and science education/creating educational opportunities	Includes two new conditional loan programs: the Pipeline for Para-educators program, and the Retooling to Teach Math and Science program. The condition for both programs is two years of teaching for every one year of scholarship.
E2SHB 1779	Creating the GET Ready for Math & Science scholarship program	Creates conditional scholarships using GET units for students who pursue math or science majors and agree to work in related fields. Students will be selected by a non-profit entity and the HECB will assist in identifying majors and careers. The funding will be a public-private partnership.