

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 618

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Senator Rucker

[Introduced January 27, 2026; referred
to the Committee on Education; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding three new sections,
2 designated §18B-1D-13, §18B-1D-14, and §18B-1D-15, relating to prohibiting state funds
3 from being used for certain degrees; and creating an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1D. HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY.

§18B-1D-13. Duties of the Higher Education Policy Council.

1 The Higher Education Policy Council shall:

2 (1) Adopt rules to prohibit state funds from being allocated or expended, either directly or
3 indirectly, for low-earning degree programs. These restrictions shall include, but are not limited to,
4 the following categories of higher education funding:

5 (A) Individual student financial aid;

6 (B) Base operational or instructional funding;

7 (C) Separately or specially appropriated aid or grants; and

8 (D) Capital or facilities funding.

9 (2) Annually review updated federal determinations of low-earning outcome programs
10 under section 84001 of Public Law No. 119-21 and adopt rules in accordance with subsection (1).

11 (3) Submit an annual and publicly available report to the legislature documenting:

12 (A) Programs prohibited from receiving state aid;

13 (B) Enforcement of such prohibitions; and

14 (C) The estimated fiscal impact due to the prohibitions.

§18B-1D-14. Limitations on administering higher education aid.

1 A political subdivision of this state shall not allocate or expend local public funds, either
2 directly or indirectly, for low-earning outcome degree programs as determined under §18B-1D-13
3 of this code.

§18B-1D-15. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect upon passage.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to limit the degrees for which state funds can be used to obtain.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.