

# HOUSE BILL No. 5161

September 5, 2007, Introduced by Reps. Melton and Condino and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1999 PA 94, entitled  
"Michigan merit award scholarship act,"  
by amending sections 7b and 8 (MCL 390.1457b and 390.1458), as  
amended by 2006 PA 478.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 7b. (1) In addition to the requirements set forth in  
2       section 7(2) or section 7a(1), to be eligible for the award of a  
3       Michigan merit award scholarship under this act, the board must  
4       find that a student satisfies all of the following:

5       (a) The student has graduated from high school or passed the  
6       general educational development (GED) test or other graduate  
7       equivalency examination approved by the state board.

8       (b) The student graduated from high school or passed the  
9       general educational development (GED) test or other graduate

1 equivalency examination approved by the state board within 1 of the  
2 following time periods:

3 (i) If the student graduated from high school or passed the  
4 test or examination before March 1, 2002, within the 7-year period  
5 preceding the student's application to receive his or her Michigan  
6 merit award scholarship money.

7 (ii) ~~If~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (iii), IF** the student  
8 graduated from high school on or after March 1, 2002 and before the  
9 2006-2007 school year, within the 4-year period preceding the date  
10 of the student's application to receive his or her Michigan merit  
11 award scholarship money, or if the student becomes a member of the  
12 United States armed forces or peace corps during this 4-year period  
13 and serves for 4 years or less, the 4-year period is extended by a  
14 period equal to the number of days the student served as a member  
15 of the United States armed forces or peace corps. The board may  
16 also extend the 4-year period if the board determines that an  
17 extension is warranted because of an illness or disability of the  
18 student or in the student's immediate family or another family  
19 emergency.

20 **(iii) IF THE STUDENT GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL ON OR AFTER**  
21 **MARCH 1, 2002 AND BEFORE THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR, AND BEFORE JULY**  
22 **26, 2002 RECEIVED WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FROM THE BOARD OR THE**  
23 **DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY THAT INDICATED THAT HE OR SHE HAD 7 YEARS TO**  
24 **RECEIVE HIS OR HER MICHIGAN MERIT AWARD SCHOLARSHIP, WITHIN THE 7-**  
25 **YEAR PERIOD PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE STUDENT'S APPLICATION TO**  
26 **RECEIVE HIS OR HER MICHIGAN MERIT AWARD SCHOLARSHIP MONEY.**

27 (c) The student is enrolled in an approved postsecondary

1 educational institution. For students who qualify under section  
2 7(2)(c), the student is enrolled in a vocational or technical  
3 education program at an approved postsecondary educational  
4 institution.

5 (d) The student has not been convicted of a felony involving  
6 an assault, physical injury, or death.

7 (e) The student satisfies any additional eligibility  
8 requirements established by the board.

9 (2) For a middle school assessment test or high school  
10 assessment test administered after January 1, 2000, the board shall  
11 not use that assessment test to determine eligibility for a  
12 Michigan merit award scholarship under this section for a  
13 particular year unless the board has reviewed and approved that  
14 assessment test before it was administered for that year.

15 (3) The board shall provide each pupil written notice of  
16 whether or not the pupil is eligible for the award of 1 or more  
17 Michigan merit award scholarships described in this act. If the  
18 pupil is eligible, the written notice shall also contain the  
19 Michigan merit award scholarship amount for which the pupil is  
20 eligible, how the pupil applies for payment of Michigan merit award  
21 scholarship, and any other information the board considers  
22 necessary regarding qualification requirements or conditions  
23 relating to the use of the Michigan merit award scholarship.

24 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that the level of  
25 pupil performance required to achieve qualifying results in a  
26 subject area of an assessment test remains approximately the same,  
27 and that the board not reduce the required level of pupil

1 performance as a means of increasing the number of Michigan merit  
2 award scholarships awarded.

3 (5) A pupil who does not initially receive qualifying results  
4 shall be extended an opportunity to achieve the requisite  
5 qualifying results by taking a subsequent assessment test.

6 (6) A nonpublic school pupil or home school pupil may take,  
7 and the board shall administer if requested, an assessment test at  
8 a site designated by the board.

9 Sec. 8. (1) Michigan merit award scholarship money shall be  
10 used only to pay for eligible costs.

11 (2) The board shall determine the manner and form of  
12 application for payment of a Michigan merit award scholarship by a  
13 student eligible under this act and the procedure for payment to  
14 the student or to an approved postsecondary educational institution  
15 on the student's behalf, subject to 1 of the following, as  
16 applicable:

17 (a) As determined by the board, upon the request of a student  
18 or parent or legal guardian of a minor student, the board may pay a  
19 Michigan merit award scholarship in 2 consecutive annual  
20 installments rather than 1 lump sum for a student who graduates  
21 from high school or passes the general educational development  
22 (GED) test or approved graduate equivalency examination before  
23 March 1, 2003.

24 (b) For each student who graduates from high school or passes  
25 the general educational development (GED) test or approved graduate  
26 equivalency examination on or after March 1, 2003 and before March  
27 1, 2004, the board shall pay a Michigan merit award scholarship in

1 2 consecutive annual installments, beginning in the state fiscal  
2 year for which the student is otherwise eligible. The first  
3 installment shall not exceed 50% of the award amount, and the  
4 second installment shall consist of the remaining award amount.  
5 Verification that the student has met the enrollment criteria under  
6 section 7b(1)(c) is required before payment of the second  
7 installment.

8 (c) For each student who graduates from high school or passes  
9 the general educational development (GED) test or approved graduate  
10 equivalency examination on or after March 1, 2004 and before the  
11 2006-2007 school year, the board shall pay a Michigan merit award  
12 scholarship in 2 consecutive annual installments, beginning in the  
13 state fiscal year that begins after the beginning of the academic  
14 year for which the student is otherwise eligible. The first  
15 installment shall not exceed 50% of the award amount, and the  
16 second installment shall consist of the remaining award amount.  
17 Verification that the student has met the enrollment criteria under  
18 section 7b(1)(c) is required before payment of the second  
19 installment.

20 (3) An approved postsecondary educational institution shall  
21 not consider a Michigan merit award scholarship in determining a  
22 student's eligibility for a financial aid program administered by  
23 this state. It is the intent of the legislature that an approved  
24 postsecondary educational institution not reduce institutionally-  
25 funded student aid because of the Michigan merit award scholarship  
26 program.

27 (4) Before payment of a Michigan merit award scholarship to a

1 student or an approved postsecondary educational institution, the  
2 student shall certify or affirm in writing to the board each of the  
3 following:

4 (a) That the student is enrolled at an approved postsecondary  
5 educational institution.

6 (b) The name of the approved postsecondary educational  
7 institution in which the student is enrolled.

8 (c) That the student agrees to use the Michigan merit award  
9 scholarship only for eligible costs.

10 (d) That the student has not been convicted of a felony  
11 involving an assault, physical injury, or death.

12 (e) That the student graduated from high school or passed the  
13 general educational development (GED) test or approved graduate  
14 equivalency examination within 1 of the following time periods:

15 (i) If the student graduated from high school or passed the  
16 test or examination before March 1, 2002, within the 7-year period  
17 preceding the date of the student's application to receive his or  
18 her Michigan merit award scholarship.

19 (ii) ~~If~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (iii), IF** the student  
20 graduated on or after March 1, 2002 and before the 2006-2007 school  
21 year, within the 4-year period preceding the date of the student's  
22 application to receive his or her Michigan merit award scholarship,  
23 or within a period equal to 4 years plus the number of days the  
24 student served as a member of the United States armed forces or  
25 peace corps if the student became a member of the United States  
26 armed forces or peace corps during this 4-year period and served  
27 for 4 years or less. The board may also extend the 4-year period if

1 the board determines that an extension is warranted because of an  
2 illness or disability of the student or in the student's immediate  
3 family or another family emergency.

4 (iii) IF THE STUDENT GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL ON OR AFTER  
5 MARCH 1, 2002 AND BEFORE THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR, AND BEFORE JULY  
6 26, 2002 RECEIVED WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FROM THE BOARD OR THE  
7 DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY THAT INDICATED THAT HE OR SHE HAD 7 YEARS TO  
8 RECEIVE HIS OR HER MICHIGAN MERIT AWARD SCHOLARSHIP, WITHIN THE 7-  
9 YEAR PERIOD PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE STUDENT'S APPLICATION TO  
10 RECEIVE HIS OR HER MICHIGAN MERIT AWARD SCHOLARSHIP.

11 (5) The board shall not begin disbursing funds for a Michigan  
12 merit award scholarship to a student or an approved postsecondary  
13 educational institution on behalf of the student unless it receives  
14 the request or application for payment, including the written  
15 certification or affirmation described in this section, from the  
16 student on or before 1 of the following dates, for disbursement in  
17 that academic year:

18 (a) In the 2002-2003 academic year, January 15.

19 (b) In the 2003-2004 academic year, September 15 if the  
20 student received notification of eligibility prior to August 1.

21 (c) In the 2003-2004 academic year, November 15 if the student  
22 received notification of eligibility on or after August 1.

23 (d) In the 2004-2005 academic year, December 15.

24 (e) In any other academic year, November 15.