

HOUSE BILL No. 6259

June 12, 2018, Introduced by Reps. Zemke, Gay-Dagnogo, Elder, Guerra, LaGrand, Peterson, Faris, Chirkun, Camilleri, Sowerby, Wittenberg, Lasinski, Geiss, Clemente, Chang, Pagan, Hammoud, Green, Greimel, Hoadley, Ellison, Yanez, Hertel, Durhal, Moss, Brinks, Cochran, Singh, Santana, Jones, Greig, Cambensy, Neeley and Rabhi and referred to the Committee on Education Reform.

A bill to establish a community college scholarship program for certain residents of this state; to provide for the administration of the scholarship program; and to prescribe certain powers and duties of certain state officers, agencies, and departments.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "community college opportunity scholarship act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this section:

4 (a) "Authority" means the Michigan higher education assistance
5 authority created in section 1 of 1960 PA 77, MCL 390.951, or any
6 successor agency or authority.

7 (b) "Community college opportunity scholarship student" means
8 a student admitted to and enrolled in an eligible community college

1 and receiving a community college opportunity scholarship under
2 this act.

3 (c) "Continuous enrollment" means a student who is enrolled in
4 the fall and spring semesters of a single academic year. Enrollment
5 in summer semester or intersession terms is not required.

6 (d) "Eligible community college" means a community or junior
7 college described in section 7 of article VIII of the state
8 constitution of 1963 that limits any increase in tuition or
9 mandatory fees to no more than an annual adjustment for inflation
10 using the most comprehensive index of consumer prices available for
11 this state from the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States
12 Department of Labor.

13 (e) "Full-time student" means a student attending an eligible
14 community college and enrolled for at least 12 semester hours
15 during each semester of attendance.

16 (f) "Gift aid" means scholarships or grants from any source
17 that do not require repayment. The term does not include student
18 loans or work-study awards.

19 (g) "High school equivalency test" means the G.E.D. test
20 developed by the GED Testing Service, the Test Assessing Secondary
21 Completion (TASC) developed by CTS/McGraw-Hill, the HISET test
22 developed by the Education Testing Service (ETS), or another
23 comparable test approved by the department of talent and economic
24 development.

25 (h) "Semester" means fall, spring, or summer semester at an
26 eligible community college, if the college is on a semester system,
27 or the equivalent, if the college is on a system other than a

1 semester system.

2 Sec. 3. The authority shall administer the community college
3 opportunity scholarship program for residents of this state seeking
4 an associate degree or certificate from an eligible community
5 college under the following terms and conditions:

6 (a) To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must be
7 admitted to, and enrolled as a full-time student in, an eligible
8 community college program in the fall term immediately succeeding
9 graduation from a public or private high school in this state,
10 completion of all requirements for high school graduation as a home
11 school student pursuant to section 1561(3)(f) of the revised school
12 code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1561, or, before the student reaches 19
13 years of age, obtaining a diploma pursuant to a high school
14 equivalency test. Exceptions to initial enrollment may be made for
15 extenuating circumstances as provided in rules promulgated by the
16 authority.

17 (b) Students applying for the scholarship must complete a
18 community college opportunity scholarship application for their
19 initial year of enrollment in accordance with a schedule determined
20 by the authority. Students must also complete the free application
21 for federal student aid (FAFSA) each academic year in which they
22 seek to receive the community college opportunity scholarship.

23 (c) To continue to receive a community college opportunity
24 scholarship at an eligible community college, a student must
25 maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and pass
26 all applicable pass/fail classes.

27 (d) Scholarship recipients must participate in mentoring and

1 community service programs under rules promulgated by the
2 authority. The authority shall develop the selection and renewal
3 criteria for students and shall have the authority to work with
4 outside organizations to develop the most effective means for
5 delivering the scholarships. In selecting outside organizations for
6 participation in the community college opportunity scholarship
7 program, the authority shall give preference to locally established
8 entities that meet designated standards specified by the
9 authority's promulgated rules.

10 (e) The amount of a community college opportunity scholarship
11 award is equal to the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the
12 eligible community college attended less all other gift aid. Gift
13 aid shall be credited first to the student's tuition and mandatory
14 fees.

15 (f) A community college opportunity scholarship student who
16 has an approved medical or personal leave of absence from an
17 eligible community college may continue to receive the scholarship
18 upon resuming the student's education at an eligible community
19 college so long as the student continues to meet all applicable
20 eligibility requirements. The sum of all approved leaves of absence
21 must not exceed 6 months.

22 (g) A student is eligible for the community college
23 opportunity scholarship until the occurrence of the first of the
24 following events:

25 (i) The student has earned a certificate or associate degree.

26 (ii) Over a period not to exceed 2 years after his or her
27 initial enrollment as a community college opportunity scholarship

1 student, the student has attended an eligible community college as
2 a community college opportunity scholarship student for 4 semesters
3 if the college is on a semester system, or its equivalent if the
4 college is on a system other than a semester system.

5 (h) Except for a medical or personal leave of absence, as
6 approved by an eligible community college, a community college
7 opportunity scholarship student must maintain continuous enrollment
8 at an eligible community college.