

Legislative Analysis



AGE FOR MICHIGAN RECONNECT GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

Senate Bill 406 (S-1) as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. Sarah Anthony

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

Senate Bill 407 (S-1) as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. Mary Cavanagh

House Committee: [Placed on second reading]
Senate Committee: Appropriations
Complete to 12-19-24

SUMMARY:

Senate Bills 406 and 407 would each amend the Michigan Reconnect Grant Act to lower the age for initial eligibility for a Michigan Reconnect Grant to 21 from 25, if sufficient funds are appropriated to expand the program. The reduced age provisions could not be applied after the state fiscal year ending September 30, 2032.

MCL 390.1711 et seq.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bills 406 and 407 could result in increased costs for the state while having no fiscal impact on local government. The bills lower the eligibility age for the Michigan Reconnect program if sufficient funds are appropriated. If the legislature does not appropriate additional or sufficient funds for the program, the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) would maintain eligibility at age 25, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state. If sufficient or additional funds were appropriated, resulting in the program's eligibility being lowered to cover adults between the ages of 21 through 24, increased costs would occur. The number of variables involved in a last-dollar scholarship make it difficult to estimate the impact of the expanded program.

According to MiLEAP, approximately 3,754 Reconnect students between 21 and 24 enrolled in a community college or eligible program in academic year 2023-24, and 29,754 adults between 21 and 24 applied to the Reconnect program. Using the 2022-23 average Reconnect award of \$714, the academic year 2023-24 program enrollment, and the current number of applicants who are between 21 and 24, an estimated range of \$2.7 million to \$21.2 million can be established, depending on the number of applicants who enroll. Costs could be higher as more adults between 21 and 24 learn and apply for the program, or if those applicants have higher financial need.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.