

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to eligibility requirements for the gap tuition
2 assistance program.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 260I.3, subsection 2, Code 2015, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. a. Eligibility for tuition assistance under this chapter
4 shall be based on financial need. Criteria to be assessed in
5 determining financial need shall include but is not limited to:

6 ~~a.~~ (1) The applicant's family income for the ~~twelve~~ six
7 months prior to the date of application.

8 ~~b.~~ (2) The applicant's family size.

9 ~~c.~~ (3) The applicant's county of residence.

10 b. An applicant approved for assistance under the
11 supplemental nutrition assistance program at the time of
12 application for assistance under this chapter shall be
13 deemed to have met the financial need requirements under this
14 subsection.

15 Sec. 2. Section 260I.4, Code 2015, is amended by adding the
16 following new subsections:

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. Persons earning incomes between
18 one hundred fifty percent and two hundred fifty percent,
19 both percentages inclusive, of the federal poverty level as
20 defined by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines
21 published by the United States department of health and human
22 services shall be given first priority for tuition assistance
23 under this chapter. Persons earning incomes below one hundred
24 fifty percent of the federal poverty level shall be given
25 second priority for tuition assistance under this chapter.

26 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. A person who is eligible for financial
27 assistance pursuant to the federal Workforce Investment Act of
28 1998, Pub. L. No. 105-220, or the federal Workforce Innovation
29 and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, shall be ineligible
30 for tuition assistance under this chapter unless such funds
31 have been fully expended by a workforce region.

32 EXPLANATION

33 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
34 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

35 This bill relates to eligibility requirements for the gap

1 tuition assistance program, which provides funding to community
2 colleges for need-based tuition assistance to applicants to
3 enable completion of continuing education certificate training
4 programs for in-demand occupations.

5 The bill changes one of the financial need criteria for the
6 program to the applicant's family income for the six months
7 prior to the date of application. Currently, the period for
8 the criterion is 12 months.

9 The bill provides that an applicant approved for assistance
10 under the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program
11 at the time of application for tuition assistance shall be
12 deemed to have met the financial need requirements for tuition
13 assistance.

14 Eligibility for tuition assistance is currently limited to
15 persons earning incomes at or below 250 percent of the federal
16 poverty level as defined by the most recently revised poverty
17 income guidelines published by the United States department
18 of health and human services. The bill provides that persons
19 earning incomes between 150 percent and 250 percent, both
20 percentages inclusive, of the federal poverty level shall be
21 given first priority for tuition assistance. The bill provides
22 that persons earning incomes below 150 percent of the federal
23 poverty level shall be given second priority for tuition
24 assistance.

25 The bill also provides that a person who is eligible
26 for financial assistance pursuant to the federal Workforce
27 Investment Act of 1998 or the federal Workforce Innovation and
28 Opportunity Act shall be ineligible for tuition assistance
29 unless such funds have been fully expended by a workforce
30 region.