

# House File 243

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY WESSEL=KROESCHELL

(COMPANION TO SF 27 BY HATCH)

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a program to provide financial assistance for  
2 postsecondary education for young adults who were involved  
3 with the state's foster care program.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
5 TLSB 1063HH 82  
6 jp/sh/8

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. Section 261.2, subsection 6, Code 2007, is  
1 2 amended to read as follows:  
1 3 6. Develop and implement, in cooperation with the  
1 4 department of human services and the judicial branch, a  
1 5 program to assist juveniles who are sixteen years of age or  
1 6 older and who have a case permanency plan under chapter 232 or  
1 7 237 or are otherwise under the jurisdiction of chapter 232 in  
1 8 applying for federal and state aid available for higher  
1 9 education. The commission shall also develop and implement  
1 10 the Iowa foster care education and training program in  
1 11 accordance with section 261.6.  
1 12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 261.6 IOWA FOSTER CARE EDUCATION  
1 13 AND TRAINING PROGRAM.  
1 14 1. The commission shall develop and implement, in  
1 15 cooperation with the department of human services and the  
1 16 judicial branch, the Iowa foster care education and training  
1 17 program in accordance with this section.  
1 18 2. The program shall provide financial assistance for  
1 19 postsecondary education or training to persons who have a high  
1 20 school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma under  
1 21 chapter 259A, are age eighteen through twenty-four, and are  
1 22 described by any of the following:  
1 23 a. On the date the person reached age eighteen or during  
1 24 the thirty calendar days preceding or succeeding that date,  
1 25 the person was in a licensed foster care placement pursuant to  
1 26 a court order entered under chapter 232 under the care and  
1 27 custody of the department of human services or juvenile court  
1 28 services.  
1 29 b. On the date the person reached age eighteen or during  
1 30 the thirty calendar days preceding or succeeding that date,  
1 31 the person was under a court order under chapter 232 to live  
1 32 with a relative or other suitable person.  
1 33 c. The person was in a licensed foster care placement  
1 34 pursuant to an order entered under chapter 232 prior to being  
1 35 legally adopted after reaching age sixteen.  
2 1 3. The program requirements shall include but are not  
2 2 limited to all of the following:  
2 3 a. Program assistance shall cover a program participant's  
2 4 expenses associated with attending an approved postsecondary  
2 5 education or training program. The expenses shall include  
2 6 tuition and fees, books and supplies, child care,  
2 7 transportation, housing, and other expenses approved by the  
2 8 commission. If a participant is attending on less than a  
2 9 full-time basis, assistance provisions shall be designed to  
2 10 cover tuition and fees and books and supplies, and assistance  
2 11 for other expenses shall be prorated to reflect the hours  
2 12 enrolled.  
2 13 b. If the approved education or training program is more  
2 14 than one year in length, the program assistance may be  
2 15 renewed. To renew the assistance, the participant must  
2 16 annually reapply for the program and meet the academic  
2 17 progress standards of the postsecondary educational

2 18 institution or make satisfactory progress toward completion of  
2 19 the training program.  
2 20 c. A person shall be less than age twenty=three upon both  
2 21 the date of the person's initial application for the program  
2 22 and the start date of the education or training program for  
2 23 which the assistance is provided. Eligibility for program  
2 24 assistance shall end upon the participant reaching age  
2 25 twenty=five.  
2 26 d. Assistance under the program shall not be used to  
2 27 supplant other available assistance to address postsecondary  
2 28 education and training program expenses for which a  
2 29 participant is eligible.  
2 30 e. The commission shall implement assistance provisions in  
2 31 a manner to ensure that the total amount of assistance  
2 32 provided under the program remains within the funding  
2 33 available for the program.

2 34 EXPLANATION

2 35 This bill creates a program under the purview of the  
3 1 college student aid commission to provide financial assistance  
3 2 for postsecondary education or training for young adults age  
3 3 18 through 24 who were involved with the state's foster care  
3 4 program. A young adult must apply for the program and  
3 5 commence the education or training prior to becoming age 23.

3 6 Code section 261.2, relating to the duties of the  
3 7 commission, is amended to include the responsibility for  
3 8 developing and implementing the program within the list of the  
3 9 commission's duties.

3 10 The program's provisions are codified in new Code section  
3 11 261.6. The commission is required to develop and implement  
3 12 the program in cooperation with the department of human  
3 13 services and the judicial branch.

3 14 To be eligible for the program, a participant must have a  
3 15 high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate and  
3 16 be described by one of the following: when the person reached  
3 17 age 18 or within 30 days preceding or succeeding that date the  
3 18 person was under court order for placement in a licensed  
3 19 foster care placement or with a relative or other suitable  
3 20 adult, or the person was in a licensed foster care placement  
3 21 pursuant to an order entered under Code chapter 232 prior to  
3 22 being legally adopted after reaching age 16.

3 23 Assistance under the program shall cover a program  
3 24 participant's expenses associated with attending an approved  
3 25 postsecondary education or training program. These expenses  
3 26 include tuition and fees, books and supplies, child care,  
3 27 transportation, housing, and other expenses approved by the  
3 28 commission. For a participant attending less than full=time,  
3 29 assistance other than tuition, fees, books, and supplies is  
3 30 required to be prorated.

3 31 Program assistance is available for more than one year  
3 32 provided a participant reapplies annually and meets the  
3 33 academic progress standards of the postsecondary educational  
3 34 institution or makes satisfactory progress toward completion  
3 35 of the training program.

4 1 Assistance under the program cannot be used to supplant  
4 2 other available assistance for which a participant is  
4 3 eligible.

4 4 The commission is required to implement the program in a  
4 5 manner so that the total assistance provided under the program  
4 6 remains within the funding available for the program.

4 7 LSB 1063HH 82

4 8 jp:nh/sh/8