

House Study Bill 237

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating an all Iowa opportunity grant program and fund to
2 be administered by the college student aid commission.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 2146XL 82
5 kh/es/88

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 261.88 ALL IOWA OPPORTUNITY
1 2 GRANT PROGRAM AND FUND.
1 3 1. DEFINITIONS. As used in this division, unless the
1 4 context otherwise requires:
1 5 a. "Commission" means the college student aid commission.
1 6 b. "Eligible institution" means a community college
1 7 established under chapter 260C or an institution of higher
1 8 learning governed by the state board of regents.
1 9 c. "Financial need" means the difference between the
1 10 student's financial resources available, including those
1 11 available from the student's parents as determined by a
1 12 completed parents' confidential statement, and the student's
1 13 anticipated expenses while attending an eligible institution.
1 14 d. "Full-time resident student" means an individual
1 15 resident of Iowa who is enrolled at an eligible institution in
1 16 a program of study including at least twelve semester hours or
1 17 the trimester or quarter equivalent.
1 18 e. "Part-time resident student" means an individual
1 19 resident of Iowa who is enrolled at an eligible institution in
1 20 a program of study including at least three semester hours or
1 21 the trimester or quarter equivalent.
1 22 f. "Qualified student" means a resident student who has
1 23 established financial need and who is meeting all program
1 24 requirements.
1 25 2. PROGRAM == ELIGIBILITY. An all Iowa opportunity grant
1 26 program is established to be administered by the commission.
1 27 The awarding of grants under the program is subject to
1 28 appropriations made by the general assembly. A person who
1 29 meets all of the following requirements is eligible for the
1 30 program:
1 31 a. Is a resident of Iowa and a citizen of the United
1 32 States or a lawful permanent resident.
1 33 b. Achieves a cumulative high school grade point average
1 34 upon graduation of at least two point five on a four-point
1 35 grade scale, or its equivalent if another grade scale is used.
2 1 c. Applies in a timely manner for admission to an eligible
2 2 institution and is accepted for admission.
2 3 d. Applies in a timely manner for any federal or state
2 4 student financial assistance available to the student to
2 5 attend an eligible institution.
2 6 e. Files a new application and parents' confidential
2 7 statement, as applicable, annually on the basis of which the
2 8 applicant's eligibility for a renewed grant will be evaluated
2 9 and determined.
2 10 f. Maintains satisfactory academic progress during each
2 11 term for which a grant is awarded.
2 12 g. Begins enrollment at an eligible institution within two
2 13 academic years of graduation from high school and continuously
2 14 receives awards as a full-time or part-time student to
2 15 maintain eligibility. However, the student may defer
2 16 participation in the program for up to two years in order to
2 17 pursue obligations that meet conditions established by the
2 18 commission by rule or to fulfill military obligations.
2 19 3. EXTENT OF GRANT.
2 20 a. A qualified student at a two-year eligible institution

2 21 may receive grants for not more than the equivalent of four
2 22 full-time semesters of undergraduate study, or the trimester
2 23 or quarter equivalent.
2 24 b. A qualified student at a four-year eligible institution
2 25 may receive grants for not more than the equivalent of two
2 26 full-time semesters of undergraduate study, or the trimester
2 27 or quarter equivalent.
2 28 c. Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall not
2 29 exceed the student's financial need, as determined by the
2 30 commission, the average resident tuition rate and mandatory
2 31 fees established for institutions of higher learning governed
2 32 by the state board of regents, or the resident tuition and
2 33 mandatory fees charged for the program of enrollment by the
2 34 eligible institution at which the student is enrolled,
2 35 whichever is least.

3 1 4. DISCONTINUANCE OF ATTENDANCE == REMITTANCE. If a
3 2 student receiving a grant pursuant to this section
3 3 discontinues attendance before the end of any academic term,
3 4 the entire amount of any refund due to the student, up to the
3 5 amount of any payments made by the state, shall be remitted by
3 6 the eligible institution to the commission. The commission
3 7 shall deposit refunds paid to the commission in accordance
3 8 with this subsection into the fund established pursuant to
3 9 subsection 5.

3 10 5. FUND ESTABLISHED. An all Iowa opportunity grant fund
3 11 is created in the state treasury as a separate fund under the
3 12 control of the commission. All moneys deposited or paid into
3 13 the fund are appropriated and made available to the commission
3 14 to be used for grants for students meeting the requirements of
3 15 this section. Notwithstanding section 8.33, any balance in
3 16 the fund on June 30 of each fiscal year shall not revert to
3 17 the general fund of the state, but shall be available for
3 18 purposes of this section in subsequent fiscal years.

3 19 EXPLANATION

3 20 This bill establishes an all Iowa opportunity grant program
3 21 and fund to be administered by the commission to provide
3 22 grants, subject to appropriations by the general assembly, to
3 23 pay the tuition and mandatory fee costs for resident students
3 24 attending Iowa's community colleges and regents universities.

3 25 Qualified students must be residents of the state and
3 26 citizens or lawful permanent residents of this country,
3 27 achieve a cumulative 2.5 grade point average upon graduation
3 28 from high school, apply and be accepted for admission at a
3 29 community college or regents university in Iowa, apply for
3 30 federal or state student financial assistance, maintain
3 31 satisfactory academic progress during each term for which a
3 32 grant is awarded, and begin enrollment at a community college
3 33 or regents university within two academic years of graduation
3 34 from high school. However, a student may defer participation
3 35 for up to two years in order to pursue obligations that meet
4 1 conditions established by the commission by rule or to fulfill
4 2 military obligations.

4 3 Qualified students attending a two-year eligible
4 4 institution may receive grants for not more than the
4 5 equivalent of four full-time semesters of undergraduate study,
4 6 or the trimester or quarter equivalent, while qualified
4 7 students attending four-year eligible institutions may receive
4 8 grants for not more than the equivalent of two full-time
4 9 semesters of undergraduate study, or the trimester or quarter
4 10 equivalent.

4 11 Grant amounts are limited to the average resident tuition
4 12 rate and mandatory fees established for regents universities,
4 13 or the tuition and mandatory fees charged by the eligible
4 14 institution at which the student is enrolled, or the student's
4 15 financial need, whichever is least.

4 16 If a student discontinues attendance before the end of any
4 17 academic term, the entire amount of any refund due to the
4 18 student, up to the amount of any payments made by the state,
4 19 must be remitted by the eligible institution to the
4 20 commission, which shall deposit the moneys into the all Iowa
4 21 opportunity grant fund to be used to issue all Iowa
4 22 opportunity grants. Moneys in the fund do not revert but are
4 23 available for the program in subsequent fiscal years.

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