

Amendment to SB 108

1 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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3 1 Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund. RSA 4-C:31 through 4-C:35 are repealed and
4 reenacted to read as follows:

5 4-C:31 Definitions. In this subdivision:

6 I. "Eligible institution or program" means:

7 (a) A postsecondary educational institution or training program within the university
8 system of New Hampshire as defined in RSA 187-A, a postsecondary educational institution or
9 training program within the community college system of New Hampshire as defined in RSA 188-F,
10 or a private postsecondary institution approved to operate in this state; and

11 (b) Is approved by the higher education commission pursuant to RSA 21-N:8-a or
12 accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education; and

13 (c) Is a not-for-profit organization eligible to receive federal Title IV funds.

14 II. "Eligible student" means a first-year, full-time, or Pell Grant-eligible student who meets
15 the eligibility and residency requirements of RSA 4-C:33. "First-year" means a student who has
16 never enrolled in an eligible institution or program.

17 III. "Full-time" means an enrolled student who is carrying an academic course load that is
18 determined to be full-time by the eligible institution or program based on a standard applicable to
19 all students enrolled in a particular educational program. The student's course load may include
20 any combination of courses, work, research, or special studies that the eligible institution or
21 program consider sufficient to classify the student as full-time.

22 IV. "Office" means the governor's office of strategic initiatives.

23 4-C:32 Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund Established.

24 I. There is hereby established the governor's scholarship program and the governor's
25 scholarship fund in the office of strategic initiatives. The program and fund shall be administered
26 by the office. The fund shall be kept distinct and separate from all other funds and shall be used to
27 provide scholarships which a recipient shall apply to the costs of an education at an eligible
28 institution or program. The funds shall be distributed to an eligible institution based on the
29 number of eligible students awarded a scholarship and upon receipt of a request for reimbursement
30 for such scholarship funds accompanied by appropriate documentation.

31 II. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund any appropriation relating to the governor's
32 scholarship fund made to the department of education, division of educator support and higher

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1 education for each fiscal year. The state treasurer shall invest the fund in accordance with RSA 6:8.
2 Any earnings on trust fund moneys shall be added to the fund.

3 III. All moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the office
4 for the purposes of this subdivision.

5 IV. The office may institute promotional programs and solicit and receive gifts or donations
6 of any kind for the purpose of supporting educational scholarships from the fund. The office may
7 accept cash gifts to the fund.

8 V. All gifts, grants, and donations of any kind shall be credited to the fund.

9 4-C:33 Eligibility.

10 I. Any person who meets the following requirements shall be an eligible student:

11 (a) A person shall meet the residency requirements of RSA 193:12, and be a graduate of
12 a New Hampshire high school, public academy, chartered public school, New Hampshire private
13 preparatory high school, or a high school-level home education program as defined in RSA 193-A,
14 have completed at least 3 years of high school in this state, be pursuing a certificate, associate, or
15 bachelor degree at an eligible institution or program in this state, and be eligible to receive a Pell
16 grant; or

17 (b) A person shall be a graduate of a preparatory high school outside of this state while
18 a dependent of a parent or legal guardian who is a legal resident of this state and who has custody
19 of the dependent; or

20 (c) A person shall have a parent or guardian who has served in or has retired from the
21 United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard within the last 4 years and is a
22 resident of this state; or

23 (d) A person shall be a graduate of a high school, public academy, chartered public high
24 school, or a high school-level home education program outside of this state but have maintained his
25 or her primary residence in this state for not less than 5 years preceding the date of application for
26 a scholarship.

27 II. A person shall meet the qualifications for academic performance or work experience as
28 established by the office.

29 III. A person shall not have been adjudicated delinquent or convicted or pled guilty or nolo
30 contendere to any felonies or any second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related offenses under the
31 laws of this or any other state, or under the laws of the United States, except that an otherwise
32 eligible person who has been adjudicated delinquent or has been convicted or pled guilty or nolo
33 contendere to a second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related misdemeanor offense shall be eligible
34 or continue to be eligible for a scholarship after the expiration of one academic year from the date of
35 adjudication, conviction, or plea.

36 4-C:34 Procedures.

37 I. All scholarship funds shall be distributed to the eligible student by the eligible institution

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1 or program. The institution or program shall include the scholarship in the student's financial aid
2 package and may seek subsequent reimbursement. The state shall provide the reimbursements
3 twice per year to each eligible institution or program for the number of eligible students enrolled in
4 the current semester or term who are receiving a scholarship. The institution or program shall
5 submit the list of scholarship recipients to the office or its designee no later than November 30 and
6 April 30 of each academic year, and shall be reimbursed within 30 days of submission.

7 II. An eligible student may receive a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 per year provided
8 he or she maintains at least a 2.0 grade point average. An eligible student who earned the New
9 Hampshire scholar designation at the time of high school graduation may receive a scholarship in
10 the amount of \$2,000 per year provided he or she maintains at least a 2.5 grade point average. The
11 eligible institution or program shall not reduce any merit or need-based grant aid that would have
12 otherwise been provided to the eligible student. An eligible student may receive an annual
13 scholarship for a maximum of 4 years.

14 III. In the event the state does not reimburse the eligible institution or program for
15 scholarship amounts paid to an eligible student receiving an award, the eligible institution or
16 program shall agree not to seek additional payments from the eligible student and to absorb the loss
17 of funds without any consequence to the eligible student.

18 IV. The office shall develop additional procedures that may be necessary for distributing
19 scholarship funds to an eligible student enrolled in an eligible institution or program.

20 2 Application of Receipts; Governor's Scholarship Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b)(336) to read as
21 follows:

22 (336) Moneys deposited into the governor's scholarship fund established in ~~[RSA 4-~~
23 ~~C:34]~~ **RSA 4-C:32**.

24 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends the governor's scholarship program and inserts new definitions for eligible students and eligible institutions.