

SB 203-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0671

07/02

SENATE BILL **203-FN**

AN ACT relative to administration of the education freedom accounts program.

SPONSORS: Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Long,
Dist 20; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Rep. Muns, Rock.
29

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill changes income eligibility and reporting requirements for the education freedom account program and modifies the program's administration and oversight.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT relative to administration of the education freedom accounts program.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Definitions. Amend RSA 194-F:1, VI to read as
2 follows:

3 VI. "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who is eligible to enroll in a public
4 elementary or secondary school and whose annual household income at the time the student applies
5 for the program, **and for each school year during the student's participation, matches the**
6 **state mandated income threshold**, is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty
7 guidelines as updated annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health
8 and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). [~~No income threshold need be met in~~
9 ~~subsequent years, provided the student otherwise qualifies.~~] Students in the special school district
10 within the department of corrections established in RSA 194:60 shall not be eligible students.

11 2 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Program. Amend RSA 194-F:2, VII to read as
12 follows:

13 VII. An EFA shall remain in force, and any unused funds shall roll over from quarter-to-
14 quarter [~~and from year to year~~] until the parent withdraws the EFA student from the EFA program,
15 **until the student becomes ineligible**, or until the EFA student graduates from high school, unless
16 the EFA is closed because of a substantial misuse of funds. Any unused funds shall revert to the
17 education trust fund established in RSA 198:39 [~~and be allocated to fund other EFAs~~].

18 3 New Paragraph; Education Freedom Account Program; Department of Education; Reporting.
19 Amend RSA 194-F:2 by inserting after paragraph IX the following new paragraph:

20 X. The department shall report annually by July 1 to the legislative oversight committee
21 established in RSA 194-F:12, and to the chairpersons of the education committees of the house of
22 representatives and senate, on the number of students in each town with community populations of
23 more than 500 residents that are participating in the EFA program. The legislative budget assistant
24 audit division shall conduct randomized annual EFA income verification auditing of 33 percent of
25 the participating families.

26 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

LBA
25-0671
1/19/25

**SB 203-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to administration of the education freedom accounts program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant is unable to complete a fiscal note for this bill as it is awaiting information from the Department of Education. The Department was contacted on 12/26/24 for a fiscal note worksheet. When completed, the fiscal note will be forwarded to the Senate Clerk's Office.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education