

SB 296 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0983

07/05

SENATE BILL **296**

AN ACT increasing the percentage of nonpublic school scholarships awarded to students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price meal program.

SPONSORS: Sen. Rochefort, Dist 1; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18; Rep. Potenza, Straf. 19; Rep. Peternel, Carr. 6; Rep. Noble, Hills. 2

COMMITTEE: Education Finance

ANALYSIS

This bill increases the percentage of nonpublic school scholarships awarded to students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price meal program. The bill also removes income qualification requirements for scholarship recipients after the initial year of qualification.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 increasing the percentage of nonpublic school scholarships awarded to students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price meal program.

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

1 1 Taxation; Education Tax Credit; Definitions. Amend RSA 77-G:1, VIII to read as follows:

2 VIII. "Eligible student" means a New Hampshire resident who is at least 5 years of age and
3 no more than 20 years of age, **or 21 if eligible under RSA 186-C:2**, who has not graduated from
4 high school, and

5 (a)(1) Who is currently attending a New Hampshire public school, including a chartered
6 public school, and for whom the adequacy grant in the next school year would be reduced if the
7 student were removed from the average daily membership calculation, or who is entering
8 kindergarten or first grade; or

9 (2) Who received a scholarship under subparagraph (1) or this subparagraph in the
10 prior program year; or

11 (3) Who does not qualify under subparagraph (1) or (2). ~~[-and~~

12 ~~(b) Whose annual household income is less than or equal to 300 percent of the federal~~
13 ~~poverty guidelines as updated annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of~~
14 ~~Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). The scholarship~~
15 ~~organization shall verify eligibility under this subparagraph.]~~

16 2 Taxation; Education Tax Credit; Scholarships. Amend RSA 77-G:2, I(d) and (e) to read as
17 follows:

18 (d) At least **50** [40] percent of the scholarships awarded by the scholarship organization
19 to eligible students as defined in RSA 77-G:1, VIII(a)(1) and (2) shall be awarded to students who
20 qualified for the federal free and reduced-price meal program [in the prior year].

21 (e) **No income threshold needs to be met in subsequent years, provided a student**
22 **otherwise qualifies for a scholarship** [A student shall reapply each year for a scholarship].

23 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.