

REFERENCE TITLE: postsecondary education grants; implementation.

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
First Regular Session
2007

HB 2151

Introduced by
Representative Biggs

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1855, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION GRANTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Section 15-1855, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:
4 15-1855. Postsecondary education grant program; fund; program
5 termination; definition
6 A. The commission on postsecondary education shall develop, implement
7 and administer a postsecondary education grant program. The commission shall
8 develop application forms, procedures and deadlines and shall select eligible
9 students each year for participation in the postsecondary education grant
10 program. The commission may establish partnerships with qualifying schools
11 for the administration of the postsecondary education grant program.
12 Participating full-time students shall receive a grant in an amount of two
13 thousand dollars annually **FOR A MAXIMUM OF FOUR CALENDAR YEARS** to be used to
14 pay all or a portion of the **FOLLOWING**:
15 1. **THE** tuition **CHARGED AT A QUALIFYING SCHOOL.** ~~—~~
16 2. **THE COST OF** books **REQUIRED FOR CLASSES AT A QUALIFYING SCHOOL.** ~~and~~
17 3. **THE** fees charged at a qualifying school ~~for a maximum of four~~
18 ~~calendar years.~~
19 B. The amount of a grant awarded to a participating part-time student
20 enrolled in at least six credit hours shall be prorated in accordance with
21 the part-time status of the student.
22 C. **EMPLOYEES OF PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS AND FAMILY MEMBERS**
23 **OF EMPLOYEES OF PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO**
24 **RECEIVE A POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IF THE**
25 **EMPLOYEE OR FAMILY MEMBER IS ELIGIBLE FOR TUITION REIMBURSEMENT OR A TUITION**
26 **WAIVER AS A BENEFIT OF EMPLOYMENT.**
27 D. A student who has obtained a sufficient number of academic credits
28 to graduate with a baccalaureate degree from the qualifying school is no
29 longer eligible to receive postsecondary education grant monies pursuant to
30 this section.
31 ~~B.~~ E. Students who provide satisfactory proof to the commission that
32 the student has met each of the following criteria are eligible to submit an
33 application for consideration by the commission for a grant under the
34 postsecondary education grant program:
35 1. The student **MEETS AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA**:
36 (a) Has graduated from a public or private high school in this
37 state. ~~—~~
38 (b) Has completed the equivalent of grade twelve in a home school
39 program. ~~or~~
40 (c) Has obtained a general equivalency diploma in this state.
41 (d) **IS CURRENTLY A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE AND HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF**
42 **THIS STATE FOR AT LEAST THE PAST FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS.**
43 2. The student has met the qualifications adopted by the commission.
44 The commission shall adopt minimum qualifications that are comparable to the

1 admissions standards established by the Arizona board of regents for Arizona
2 public universities.

3 3. The student registers for enrollment as a student in a
4 baccalaureate program at a nationally or regionally accredited private
5 postsecondary educational institution in this state that awards four year
6 baccalaureate degrees.

7 ~~4. The student is currently a resident of this state and has been a~~
8 ~~resident of this state for at least the past five consecutive years.~~

9 ~~5.~~ 4. The student has completed and submitted a free application for
10 federal student aid.

11 ~~6.~~ 5. The student is a citizen or legal resident of the United
12 States, or is otherwise lawfully present in the United States.

13 ~~6.~~ F. The postsecondary education grant fund is established
14 consisting of legislative appropriations. The commission shall administer
15 the fund. Monies in the fund are continuously appropriated and are exempt
16 from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations.
17 The commission shall make awards for payment of tuition at qualifying schools
18 to students who are selected to participate in the postsecondary education
19 grant program pursuant to subsection A of this section.

20 ~~7.~~ G. If the amount of monies available for postsecondary education
21 grants in any fiscal year is insufficient to provide grants to all eligible
22 applicants, the commission shall award grants to eligible students in the
23 order in which the applications were received by the commission, except that
24 priority shall be given to qualifying students who received a grant in the
25 previous fiscal year and who are still in good academic standing at the same
26 qualifying school. The commission shall maintain a waiting list for all
27 other applicants.

28 ~~8.~~ H. A student who fails to receive a baccalaureate degree within a
29 five year period of receipt of the program award shall reimburse the
30 postsecondary education grant fund for all awards received pursuant to
31 subsection A of this section.

32 ~~9.~~ I. The commission shall submit an annual report to the governor,
33 the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and
34 the joint legislative budget committee that includes a detailed description
35 of the amount of monies distributed under the postsecondary education grant
36 program during the previous fiscal year and that includes the total number of
37 qualified applicants for grants, the total number of grants awarded, the
38 qualifying schools attended by grant recipients and the total number of
39 qualified applicants who were placed on the waiting list. The commission
40 shall provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state and the
41 director of the Arizona state library, archives and public records.

42 ~~10.~~ J. If the commission is notified by a qualifying school that a
43 student who has received a postsecondary education grant is no longer in good
44 academic standing at the qualifying school, the commission shall immediately
45 discontinue the grant and the student shall reimburse the postsecondary

1 education grant fund for any unused portion or any unlawfully used portion of
2 a grant received pursuant to subsection A of this section.

3 ~~H.~~ K. The commission shall develop a marketing strategy that is
4 designed to provide information about the postsecondary education grant
5 program to all high school students in this state.

6 ~~I.~~ L. The program established by this section ends on July 1, 2016
7 pursuant to section 41-3102.

8 ~~J.~~ M. For the purposes of this section, "qualifying school" means a
9 nationally or regionally accredited private postsecondary educational
10 institution in this state that offers four year baccalaureate degrees.