

REFERENCE TITLE: Arizona promise program; appropriation

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-fifth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2021

## **SB 1508**

Introduced by  
Senator Boyer

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 14, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING ARTICLE 8.1; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 14, Arizona Revised Statutes, is  
3 amended by adding article 8.1, to read:

4 ARTICLE 8.1. ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM

5 15-1883. Arizona promise program; eligibility requirements;  
6 award; fund; program termination; definitions

7 A. ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS SHALL IMPLEMENT AN ARIZONA  
8 PROMISE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS WHO MEET THE  
9 CRITERIA PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION AND WHO ARE PURSUING STUDIES IN THIS  
10 STATE LEADING TO AN ASSOCIATE OR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE.

11 B. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, TO BE ELIGIBLE TO  
12 PARTICIPATE IN THE ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM AND TO QUALIFY FOR AN AWARD  
13 UNDER THIS SECTION, A STUDENT SHALL MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING  
14 REQUIREMENTS:

15 1. QUALIFY FOR IN-STATE STUDENT STATUS AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION  
16 15-1802.

17 2. ESTABLISH FINANCIAL NEED. TO ESTABLISH FINANCIAL NEED UNDER  
18 THIS PARAGRAPH, AN APPLICANT SHALL MEET THE ECONOMIC ELIGIBILITY  
19 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND CHILD  
20 NUTRITION ACTS (42 UNITED STATES CODE SECTIONS 1751 THROUGH 1793) FOR FREE  
21 OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCHES.

22 3. HAVE GRADUATED FROM A HIGH SCHOOL IN THIS STATE WITH A MINIMUM  
23 2.5 CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE ON A 4.0 SCALE FOR ALL WORK ATTEMPTED  
24 IN GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE.

25 4. SATISFY THE ADMISSION STANDARDS AS DETERMINED BY AN ELIGIBLE  
26 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION.

27 5. COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID  
28 AND MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT.

29 6. SECURE ADMISSION TO, AND BE ENROLLED IN, AN ELIGIBLE  
30 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION FOR AT LEAST HALF-TIME STATUS AS DETERMINED BY  
31 FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID GUIDELINES.

32 C. TO RETAIN ELIGIBILITY WHILE PURSUING THE PROGRAM OF HIGHER  
33 LEARNING IN WHICH THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED, THE STUDENT SHALL MEET ALL OF  
34 THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

35 1. MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RETENTION AND DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE  
36 COMPLETION AS ESTABLISHED BY THE ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN  
37 WHICH THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED.

38 2. MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS AS REQUIRED FOR  
39 ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID.

40 3. COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT  
41 AID.

42 4. MAINTAIN AT LEAST HALF-TIME STATUS AS DETERMINED BY FEDERAL  
43 STUDENT FINANCIAL AID GUIDELINES.

1           5. COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS RELATED TO MAINTENANCE OF ELIGIBILITY  
2 AS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY  
3 INSTITUTION.

4           D. EACH ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION SHALL PROVIDE TO EACH  
5 ELIGIBLE STUDENT AN AWARD UP TO THE ACTUAL COST OF IN-STATE TUITION AND  
6 FEES, EXCEPT THAT AN AWARD PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE  
7 REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF ANY OTHER FEDERAL AID SCHOLARSHIPS OR PUBLIC  
8 GRANTS AND ANY OTHER FINANCIAL GIFTS, GRANTS OR AID RECEIVED BY THAT  
9 PERSON.

10          E. AN AWARD UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED FOR COURSES OR OTHER  
11 POSTSECONDARY UNITS TAKEN IN EXCESS OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMPLETION  
12 OF A BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM.

13          F. AN AWARD UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE AWARDED FOR A MAXIMUM OF  
14 EIGHT ACADEMIC SEMESTERS OR THEIR EQUIVALENT.

15          G. AN AWARD UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE AWARDED TO ALL ELIGIBLE  
16 APPLICANTS WITHOUT LIMIT OTHER THAN THE AMOUNT OF MONIES AVAILABLE FOR THE  
17 ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM AND THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS. IF  
18 APPROPRIATED MONIES ARE INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE AWARDS FOR ALL ELIGIBLE  
19 APPLICANTS, THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL GUARANTEE THE AWARD FOR  
20 APPLICANTS WHO ENROLL IN A UNIVERSITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE  
21 ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS.

22          H. THE ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM FUND IS ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF  
23 LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS AND ANY OTHER MONIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
24 ADMINISTERING THE ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM AND DISTRIBUTING AWARD MONIES.  
25 THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND, INCLUDING  
26 DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING CENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR  
27 DISTRIBUTING MONIES IN THE FUND TO ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS  
28 EACH FISCAL YEAR. THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS MAY ACCEPT AND SPEND  
29 FEDERAL MONIES AND PRIVATE GRANTS, GIFTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEVICES,  
30 INCLUDING PRIVATE, PHILANTHROPIC, PUBLIC AND OTHER SOURCES OF MONIES, TO  
31 ASSIST IN CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. MONIES IN THE FUND  
32 ARE CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED AND ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF  
33 SECTION 35-190 RELATING TO LAPSING OF APPROPRIATIONS. MONIES IN THE FUND  
34 MAY BE USED FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

35           1. REIMBURSING ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM AWARDS THAT COVER THE  
36 BALANCE OF TUITION AND FEES FOR ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN AN  
37 ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION AFTER ALL OTHER GIFTS AND AID RECEIVED.

38           2. ADMINISTERING THE ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM, INCLUDING HIRING AND  
39 RETAINING ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM INCLUDES  
40 DATA COLLECTION, REPORTING, TRACKING AND ANALYZING THE PROGRAM.

41           3. DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING A MARKETING AND PROMOTION PLAN FOR  
42 THE ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM.

43          I. ANNUAL EXPENDITURES FOR MARKETING, PROMOTING AND ADMINISTERING  
44 THE ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM MAY NOT EXCEED THREE PERCENT OF THE MONIES IN  
45 THE FUND EACH FISCAL YEAR.

1 J. MONIES REMAINING IN THE ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM FUND AT THE END  
2 OF EACH FISCAL YEAR MAY BE USED BY ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS FOR  
3 ARIZONA PROMISE PROGRAM COSTS IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

4 K. THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THIS SECTION ENDS ON JULY 1, 2031  
5 PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-3102.

6 L. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

7 1. "ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS" MEANS UNIVERSITIES UNDER  
8 THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN  
9 ARIZONA, AND COLLEGES IN THIS STATE THAT ARE OWNED, OPERATED OR CHARTERED  
10 BY A QUALIFYING INDIAN TRIBE ON ITS OWN INDIAN RESERVATION.

11 2. "TUITION AND FEES" MEANS TUITION, MANDATORY FEES AND PROGRAM  
12 FEES THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH A PROGRAM IN THE ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY  
13 INSTITUTION AND THAT ARE CHARGED BY AN ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION.

14 Sec. 2. Appropriation: Arizona promise program fund

15 The sum of \$50,000,000 is appropriated from the state general fund  
16 in fiscal year 2021-2022 to the Arizona promise program fund established  
17 by section 15-1883, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act.