

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-second Legislature
Second Regular Session
1996

FILED

**Jane Dee Hull
Secretary of State**

CHAPTER 341

HOUSE BILL 2439

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE 5, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-1854; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; RELATING TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

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

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 14, article 5, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 15-1854, to read:

4 15-1854. Postsecondary education voucher program; postsecondary
5 education voucher fund

6 A. A POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION VOUCHER PILOT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED.
7 THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.
8 BEGINNING JULY 1, 1996. STUDENTS WHO OBTAIN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE FROM A
9 COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR
10 COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND WHO REGISTER FOR ENROLLMENT AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT IN
11 A BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM AT A PRIVATE, NATIONALLY OR REGIONALLY ACCREDITED
12 FOUR-YEAR DEGREE GRANTING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY CHARTERED IN THIS STATE ARE
13 ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE COMMISSION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
14 PROGRAM. THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR TUITION
15 VOUCHERS INCLUDING FINANCIAL NEED AND ACADEMIC MERIT, SHALL DEVELOP
16 APPLICATION FORMS, PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES AND SHALL SELECT UP TO SIXTY
17 QUALIFYING STUDENTS EACH YEAR FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM.
18 PARTICIPATING STUDENTS SHALL RECEIVE A TUITION VOUCHER IN AN AMOUNT OF UP TO
19 ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ANNUALLY NOT TO EXCEED TWO YEARS AND THREE

1 THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BE USED TO PAY ALL OR A PORTION OF THE TUITION AND FEES
2 CHARGED AT THE PRIVATE, ACCREDITED FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE.

3 B. A POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION VOUCHER FUND IS ESTABLISHED CONSISTING
4 OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS. THE COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.
5 MONIES IN THE FUND DO NOT REVERT TO THE STATE GENERAL FUND AT THE CLOSE OF
6 A FISCAL YEAR. THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT OF TUITION
7 AT ELIGIBLE COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES TO STUDENTS WHO ARE SELECTED TO
8 PARTICIPATE IN THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION VOUCHER PROGRAM PURSUANT TO
9 SUBSECTION A.

10 C. THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP A PROGRAM EVALUATION PROCEDURE IN
11 ORDER TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION VOUCHER
12 PILOT PROGRAM IN SHIFTING STUDENTS WHO WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE ATTENDED A PUBLIC
13 FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TO PRIVATE FOUR-YEAR DEGREE GRANTING COLLEGES
14 OR UNIVERSITIES.

15 D. A STUDENT WHO FAILS TO RECEIVE A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE WITHIN A
16 THREE YEAR PERIOD OF RECEIPT OF THE VOUCHER SHALL REIMBURSE TO THE
17 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION VOUCHER FUND FOR ALL TUITION VOUCHERS RECEIVED
18 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION.

19 Sec. 2. Appropriation; purpose; exemption from lapsing

20 A. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the state general fund to
21 the commission for postsecondary education for fiscal year 1996-1997 for the
22 purpose of funding vouchers issued under the postsecondary education voucher
23 pilot program authorized by this act.

24 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
25 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating to
26 lapsing of appropriations.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 1, 1996

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 1, 1996