

Senate Engrossed House Bill

FILED

**JANICE K. BREWER
SECRETARY OF STATE**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

CHAPTER 140

HOUSE BILL 2736

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-105, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE EARLY
GRADUATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-105, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-105. Early graduation scholarship program; fund; program
5 termination; definition

6 A. Each school district or charter school that provides instruction in
7 grades nine through twelve in this state shall participate in and promote to
8 students an early graduation scholarship program.

9 B. The commission for postsecondary education shall develop
10 application forms, procedures and deadlines to implement and administer the
11 early graduation scholarship program in conjunction with the department of
12 education ~~by November 1, 2007~~ and shall select eligible students each year
13 for participation in the early graduation scholarship program. The school
14 district or charter school that the student attends shall notify the
15 department of education and the commission for postsecondary education if the
16 student graduates at least one semester before the student's scheduled
17 graduation date.

18 C. Participating full-time students who graduate:

19 1. At least one year early shall receive a scholarship grant in an
20 amount not to exceed one thousand two hundred fifty dollars or the actual
21 cost of tuition, books and fees, whichever is less, in the first academic
22 year of postsecondary instruction, and an amount not to exceed seven hundred
23 fifty dollars or the actual cost of tuition, books and fees, whichever is
24 less, in the second academic year of postsecondary instruction, to be used to
25 pay all or a portion of the tuition, books and fees charged at a qualifying
26 postsecondary institution for a maximum of two academic years, which must be
27 completed within thirty-six months after the student's actual graduation date
28 from high school. The amount of a scholarship grant awarded to a
29 participating part-time student enrolled ~~in at least six credit hours~~ AT
30 LEAST HALF-TIME FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR AS DEFINED IN 20 UNITED STATES CODE
31 SECTION 1088 shall be prorated in accordance with the part-time status of the
32 student.

33 2. One semester early shall receive a scholarship grant in an amount
34 not to exceed one thousand dollars or the actual cost of tuition, books and
35 fees, whichever is less, in the first academic year of postsecondary
36 instruction, and an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars or the actual
37 cost of tuition, books and fees, whichever is less, in the second academic
38 year of postsecondary instruction, to be used to pay all or a portion of the
39 tuition, books and fees charged at a qualifying postsecondary institution for
40 a maximum of two academic years, which must be completed within thirty-six
41 months after the student's actual graduation date from high school. The
42 amount of a scholarship grant awarded to a participating part-time student
43 enrolled ~~in at least six credit hours~~ HALF-TIME FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR AS
44 DEFINED IN 20 UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 1088 shall be prorated in accordance
45 with the part-time status of the student.

1 D. A student who provides satisfactory proof to the commission for
2 postsecondary education that the student has met all of the following
3 criteria is eligible to submit an application for consideration for a
4 scholarship grant under the early graduation scholarship program:

5 1. The student has graduated from a charter school or a public high
6 school that is part of a school district in this state at least one semester
7 earlier than the student's class is scheduled to graduate.

8 2. The student has achieved a passing score on each component of the
9 Arizona instrument to measure standards test that is required for graduation
10 from high school.

11 3. The student is currently a resident of this state and has been a
12 resident of this state for at least the past twelve months.

13 ~~4. The student submits a statement from the qualifying postsecondary~~
14 ~~institution that details the cost of tuition, books and fees for that~~
15 ~~student.~~

16 ~~5.~~ 4. The student has completed and submitted a free application for
17 federal student aid.

18 ~~6. The student or the student's parent or legal guardian signs a~~
19 ~~promissory note for reimbursement pursuant to subsection J of this section.~~

20 E. The school district or charter school from which the student
21 graduated shall include the student who graduates early in the school
22 district's or charter school's student count until the student's class is
23 scheduled to graduate and shall continue to receive per pupil funding minus
24 two thousand two hundred dollars for a student who graduates at least one
25 year early or one thousand seven hundred dollars for a student who graduates
26 one semester early, whichever is applicable, until the student's class is
27 scheduled to graduate. The school district or charter school shall place the
28 per pupil funding received in the school district's or charter school's
29 maintenance and operations fund.

30 F. The department of education shall ~~deposit~~ TRANSMIT BOTH OF THE
31 FOLLOWING TO THE COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:

32 1. A LIST OF EARLY GRADUATES WITH THEIR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION,
33 COHORT GRADUATION DATE, EARLY GRADUATION DATE AND HIGH SCHOOL OF GRADUATION.

34 2. Two thousand two hundred dollars for a student who graduates at
35 least one year early or one thousand seven hundred dollars for a student who
36 graduates one semester early, whichever is applicable, of the amount of per
37 pupil funding provided to a school district or charter school for a student
38 who graduates at least one semester early FOR DEPOSIT in the early graduation
39 scholarship fund established by this section.

40 G. The commission for postsecondary education shall make awards from
41 the early graduation scholarship fund for payment of tuition, books and fees
42 at qualifying postsecondary institutions to students who are selected to
43 participate in the early graduation scholarship program on verification of
44 admission, ~~and~~ enrollment AND CERTIFICATION OF THE COST OF EACH STUDENT'S
45 TUITION AND FEES by the qualifying postsecondary institutions.

1 H. If the amount of monies available for scholarship grants in any
2 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarship grants to all eligible
3 applicants, the commission for postsecondary education shall award
4 scholarship grants to eligible students in the order in which the
5 applications were received by the commission, except that priority shall be
6 given to eligible students who received a scholarship grant in the previous
7 fiscal year and who are still in good academic standing at the same
8 qualifying postsecondary institution or who transferred to a different
9 qualifying postsecondary institution but remain in good academic standing at
10 the previous qualifying postsecondary institution. The commission for
11 postsecondary education shall maintain a waiting list for all other
12 applicants.

13 I. A qualifying postsecondary institution shall notify the commission
14 for postsecondary education if a student who has received a scholarship grant
15 is no longer in good academic standing at the qualifying postsecondary
16 institution or is no longer enrolled at the qualifying postsecondary
17 institution.

18 J. ~~Not later than thirty six months after the student's actual~~
19 ~~graduation date from high school,~~ The student or the qualifying postsecondary
20 institution shall reimburse the early graduation scholarship fund for any
21 UNUSED scholarship grant FUNDS received pursuant to subsection C of this
22 section if ~~the student is no longer in good academic standing at the~~
23 ~~qualifying postsecondary institution or is no longer enrolled at the~~
24 ~~qualifying postsecondary institution~~ DOES NOT COMPLETE THE ACADEMIC YEAR AS
25 DEFINED IN 20 UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 1088. ~~The commission for~~
26 ~~postsecondary education may waive the reimbursement requirements of this~~
27 ~~subsection for good cause shown.~~ A student shall ~~provide proof that the~~
28 ~~student completed~~ COMPLETE the first year in good academic standing from the
29 A qualifying postsecondary institution to ~~the commission for postsecondary~~
30 ~~education~~ before receiving monies for the second year from the early
31 graduation scholarship fund.

32 K. A student who receives an early graduation scholarship grant shall
33 be allowed, at no additional cost except for fees charged to all students, to
34 both:

35 1. Participate in extracurricular activities until the student's high
36 school class is scheduled to graduate.

37 2. Participate in the student's high school class graduation
38 ceremonies.

39 L. The early graduation scholarship fund is established consisting of
40 monies deposited pursuant to subsection F of this section and all repayments
41 that are received pursuant to subsection J of this section. The commission
42 for postsecondary education shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund
43 are continuously appropriated and are exempt from the provisions of section
44 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. On notice from the commission,
45 the state treasurer shall invest and divest monies in the fund as provided by

1 section 35-313, and monies earned from the investment shall be credited to
2 the fund. The commission may retain up to five per cent of the monies in the
3 fund for administrative costs. The commission may hire up to two full-time
4 equivalent positions for the implementation and administration of the early
5 graduation scholarship program.

6 M. The commission for postsecondary education shall submit an annual
7 report by December 1 to the governor, the president of the senate and the
8 speaker of the house of representatives and a copy of the report shall be
9 submitted to the secretary of state and the director of the Arizona state
10 library, archives and public records. The report shall contain at least the
11 following:

12 1. The number of students who graduated at least one year early and
13 the number of students who graduated at least one semester early for each
14 year of implementation of the program by each school district and charter
15 school.

16 2. The number of scholarships provided pursuant to this section.

17 3. The average amount per scholarship provided pursuant to this
18 section.

19 4. The balance in the early graduation scholarship fund.

20 5. The number of students using a scholarship to attend a regionally
21 or nationally accredited public or private postsecondary institution and the
22 number of students using a scholarship to attend a regionally or nationally
23 accredited vocational program.

24 6. A description of how the commission expended monies for
25 administrative costs of the program pursuant to subsection L of this section.

26 N. The program established by this section ends on July 1, 2017
27 pursuant to section 41-3102.

28 O. For the purposes of this section, "qualifying postsecondary
29 institution" means a regionally or nationally accredited public or private
30 postsecondary educational institution in this state or a regionally or
31 nationally accredited vocational program in this state.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 29, 2008.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 29, 2008.

Passed the House March 18, 20 08

Passed the Senate April 23, 20 08

by the following vote: 60 Ayes,

by the following vote: 28 Ayes,

0 Nays, 0 Not Voting

0 Nays, 2 Not Voting

[Signature]

Speaker of the House

[Signature]

President of the Senate

[Signature]

Chief Clerk of the House

[Signature]

Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill received by the Governor this

_____ day of _____, 20____

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary to the Governor

Approved this _____ day of

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill received by the Secretary of State

this _____ day of _____, 20____

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State

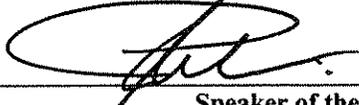
H.B. 2736

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE
AMENDMENTS AND FINAL PASSAGE

April 24, 2008,

by the following vote: 49 Ayes,

1 Nays, 10 Not Voting



Speaker of the House



Chief Clerk of the House

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill was received by the Governor this

24th day of April, 2008

at 1:00 o'clock P. M.


Secretary to the Governor

Approved this 29 day of

April, 2008,

at 1:50 o'clock P. M.



Governor of Arizona

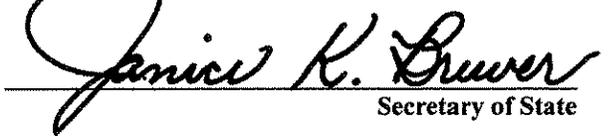
H.B. 2736

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill was received by the Secretary of State

this 29 day of April, 2008

at 1:50 o'clock P. M.


Secretary of State