



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Manufacturer's Bank Building, 12th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HS VALEDICTORIANS

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House Bill 5134

Sponsor: Rep. Kirk A. Proffitt
Committee: Colleges & Universities

Mich. State Law Library

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A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5134 AS INTRODUCED 10-4-89

The bill would create the Michigan Valedictory Scholarship Act to provide for scholarships for valedictorians graduating from public or private high schools who were attending a degree-granting state college or university. The bill would provide for the granting of these scholarships by the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority (MHEAA), and would prescribe other powers and duties of the authority.

Awarding Scholarships. Under the bill, the authority would annually award a scholarship to the valedictorian of each state high school if he or she met the bill's requirements. The scholarship would be a single grant award of at least \$500, but could be more if additional funds were appropriated by the legislature. Any additional funds appropriated would be divided proportionally among the valedictorians. The authority would promulgate rules necessary to implement provisions in the bill under the Administrative Procedures Act.

Eligibility Requirements. A valedictorian (defined as the student or students who achieved the highest grade point average in a high school graduating class) of a state high school would be eligible for a valedictory scholarship if he or she:

* had resided in the state continuously for the preceding 12 months and was not considered a resident of another state; and

* enrolled in a state college or university (but not in a program of study leading to a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education).

Enrollment Certification, Scholarship Disbursement. Before payment of a valedictory scholarship was made, the recipient would have to certify to the authority in writing the name of the state college or university in which the student was enrolled and the recipient's intent to use the scholarship for paying educational expenses. At the recipient's option, the authority would have to pay the scholarship in one lump sum to the recipient or to the school of enrollment for credit to the student's account. The payment would have to be made no earlier than 4 weeks after the recipient enrolled in school nor later than 8 weeks after enrollment.

House Bill 5134 (3-15-90)