

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 6130**

A bill to amend 2020 PA 68, entitled
"Michigan reconnect grant recipient act,"
by amending sections 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, and 23 (MCL
390.1711, 390.1713, 390.1715, 390.1716, 390.1717, 390.1718,
390.1721, and 390.1723).

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 11. (1) This act ~~shall be known and~~ may be cited as the
2 "Michigan reconnect grant recipient act".

3 (2) The reconnect initiative and the reconnect program created
4 respectively in this act and the Michigan reconnect grant act, **2020**
5 **PA 84, MCL 390.1701 to 390.1709**, are intended to provide last-
6 dollar financial assistance to individuals age 25 and older seeking
7 associate degrees or industry-recognized certificates or

1 credentials; to provide those individuals with greater access to
 2 the education and skills needed to succeed in, and meet the demands
 3 of, an evolving economy in which there is continuing demand for a
 4 talented local workforce; **to drive innovations specific to adult**
 5 **learners in this state's community colleges; to mitigate**
 6 **educational equity gaps in the furtherance of individual**
 7 **prosperity;** and to achieve the goal of increasing the number of
 8 residents ages 25 to 64 with a college degree or skill certificate
 9 or credential to 60% by 2030.

10 Sec. 13. As used in this act:

11 ~~(a) "Continuous enrollment" means enrollment in at least 2~~
 12 ~~semesters or the equivalent in terms of quarters, as determined by~~
 13 ~~the department, during each 12-month period for a number of~~
 14 ~~consecutive years. For purposes of this subdivision, the 2 or more~~
 15 ~~semesters, terms, or quarters of enrollment within a 12-month~~
 16 ~~period need not be consecutive.~~

17 (a) ~~(b)~~ "Department" means the department of labor and
 18 economic opportunity.

19 (b) ~~(e)~~ "Eligible institution" means that term as defined in
 20 the Michigan reconnect grant act, **2020 PA 84, MCL 390.1701 to**
 21 **390.1709.**

22 (c) ~~(d)~~ "Gift aid" means ~~that term as defined in the Michigan~~
 23 ~~reconnect grant act.~~ **federal Pell grants under 20 USC 1070a and**
 24 **tuition incentive program benefits under section 256 of the school**
 25 **aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1856. The term does not**
 26 **include any of the following:**

27 (i) Student loans.

28 (ii) Work-study awards.

29 (iii) Qualified withdrawals made from education savings accounts

1 to pay higher education expenses pursuant to the Michigan education
2 savings program act, 2000 PA 161, MCL 390.1471 to 390.1486.

3 (iv) Higher education expenses paid under the Michigan
4 educational trust program, pursuant to the Michigan education trust
5 act, 1986 PA 316, MCL 390.1421 to 390.1442.

6 (v) Higher education expenses paid under the Michigan promise
7 zone authority act, 2008 PA 549, MCL 390.1661 to 390.1679.

8 (vi) Financial aid from any source that is used for nontuition
9 expenses.

10 ~~(c) "Half-time student" means a student enrolled in at least 6~~
11 ~~credit hours in an academic semester or the equivalent number of~~
12 ~~credit hours in a term or quarter, as determined by the department.~~

13 (d) ~~(f)~~—"Industry-recognized certificate or credential" means
14 that term as defined in the Michigan reconnect grant act, **2020 PA**
15 **84, MCL 390.1701 to 390.1709.**

16 (e) ~~(g)~~—"Michigan reconnect grant" means a grant awarded under
17 the Michigan reconnect grant program.

18 (f) ~~(h)~~—"Michigan reconnect grant program" means the grant
19 program created under section 5 of the Michigan reconnect grant
20 act, **2020 PA 84, MCL 390.1705.**

21 (g) ~~(i)~~—"Michigan reconnect grant student" means that term as
22 defined in the Michigan reconnect grant act, **2020 PA 84, MCL**
23 **390.1701 to 390.1709.**

24 (h) ~~(j)~~—"Pell-eligible program" means a program eligible for
25 grant funding under 20 USC 1070a.

26 (i) ~~(k)~~—"Qualified occupational training program" means a
27 ~~course of study~~ **career training program** approved by the department
28 that ~~, subject to subparagraph (vi), prepares students to earn an~~
29 ~~occupational credential that meets all of subparagraphs (i) to (v),~~

1 ~~as follows:~~**the following:**

2 ~~(i) Is industry recognized.~~

3 ~~(ii) Is portable and recognized by multiple employers.~~

4 ~~(iii) Prepares students to successfully pass all relevant~~
5 ~~certification examinations.~~

6 ~~(iv) Is in demand in the regional labor market.~~

7 ~~(v) Is in an occupational area serving manufacturing,~~
8 ~~construction, information technology, business management, or~~
9 ~~health care.~~

10 ~~(vi) If the course of study is provided by an apprenticeship~~
11 ~~program, the program must be registered with the United States~~
12 ~~Department of Labor under the national apprenticeship act, 29 USC~~
13 ~~50 et seq.~~

14 ~~(l) "Qualified private training institution" means either of~~
15 ~~the following:~~

16 ~~(i) A for-profit or nonprofit private organization in this~~
17 ~~state that provides occupational training, but not 4-year~~
18 ~~postsecondary degrees, that is included on this state's eligible~~
19 ~~training provider list located within the department pursuant to 20~~
20 ~~CFR 680.410.~~

21 ~~(ii) A consortium of businesses in this state offering~~
22 ~~occupational training that guarantees employment for those who~~
23 ~~successfully complete the training and is included on this state's~~
24 ~~eligible training provider list located within the department~~
25 ~~pursuant to 20 CFR 680.410.~~

26 **(i) Provides not less than 150, and not more than 600, clock**
27 **hours of instructional time over a period of not less than 8 weeks**
28 **and not more than 15 weeks. This subparagraph does not apply to a**
29 **career training program that provides didactic instruction leading**

1 to an industry-recognized credential in health care that prepares
2 program completers for high-demand occupations.

3 (ii) Provides training aligned with the requirements of high-
4 skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors for occupations in
5 this state as determined by the department in consultation with the
6 Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives.

7 (iii) Is included on this state's eligible training provider
8 list located in the department.

9 (iv) Provides a student, upon completion of the program, with a
10 recognized postsecondary credential that is stackable and portable
11 across multiple employers and geographic areas.

12 (v) Has demonstrated that, within 6 months after completing
13 the program, the median income of students who complete the program
14 is at least 20% greater than the median income of all program
15 enrollees 6 months before starting the program. This subparagraph
16 does not apply to a career training program that provides didactic
17 instruction leading to an industry-recognized credential in health
18 care that prepares program completers for high-demand occupations.

19 (vi) For a job training program that prepares students for a
20 professional license or certification exam, has demonstrated that
21 students who complete the program are qualified to take and pass
22 the licensure or certification exam.

23 (vii) Has been in operation for at least 1 year.

24 (viii) For programs offered by institutions of higher education,
25 includes institutional credit articulation for a student in a
26 noncredit job training program.

27 (ix) If the course of study is provided by an apprenticeship
28 program, the program must be registered with the United States
29 Department of Labor under the national apprenticeship act, 29 USC

1 50 et seq.

2 Sec. 15. To establish initial eligibility for a Michigan
3 reconnect grant, an individual must meet all of the following
4 conditions by the date of his or her enrollment described in
5 subdivision (d):

6 (a) Be at least 25 years old.

7 (b) Be a resident of this state for at least the immediately
8 preceding year.

9 (c) Have graduated from high school with a diploma or
10 certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency
11 certificate. As used in this subdivision, "high school equivalency
12 certificate" means that term as defined in section 4 of the school
13 aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1604.

14 (d) Be admitted to, and enrolled ~~as at least a half-time~~
15 ~~student~~ in, a Pell-eligible program at an eligible institution
16 leading to an associate degree or industry-recognized certificate
17 or credential.

18 (e) Not have previously earned an associate or baccalaureate
19 degree.

20 (f) Timely complete a Michigan reconnect grant application in
21 a form and manner determined by the department.

22 (g) Timely file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
23 for the enrollment period described in subdivision (d).

24 (h) Timely apply for all available gift aid for the enrollment
25 period described in subdivision (d).

26 Sec. 16. To establish continuing eligibility for a Michigan
27 reconnect grant at an eligible institution, an individual must meet
28 all of the following conditions:

29 (a) Continue to be a resident of this state.

1 (b) Except as otherwise provided in section 18(1), maintain
2 ~~continuous enrollment as at least a half-time student in a Pell-~~
3 eligible program at an eligible institution leading to an associate
4 degree or industry-recognized certificate or credential **and earn at**
5 **least 12 credits after each academic year period, once the**
6 **individual begins an academic year.**

7 (c) Maintain **satisfactory academic progress as determined by**
8 **the eligible institution or** a 2.0 grade point average ~~in courses~~
9 ~~taken by the individual as~~ **since becoming** a Michigan reconnect
10 grant student.

11 ~~(d) Participate in relevant academic and career advising~~
12 ~~programs offered by the eligible institution.~~

13 **(d)** ~~(e)~~ Timely file the Free Application for Federal Student
14 Aid for each academic year in which he or she applies for a
15 Michigan reconnect grant.

16 **(e)** ~~(f)~~ Timely apply for all available gift aid for each
17 academic year in which he or she applies for a Michigan reconnect
18 grant.

19 Sec. 17. **(1)** ~~Regardless of which community college district~~
20 ~~that a Michigan reconnect grant student resides in, if any, the~~
21 ~~amount of a Michigan reconnect grant must not exceed the cost of~~
22 ~~tuition at the in-district resident rate and mandatory fees at the~~
23 ~~eligible institution attended less all gift aid. Gift aid must be~~
24 ~~credited first to the student's tuition and mandatory fees. The~~
25 **amount of a Michigan reconnect grant awarded to a Michigan**
26 **reconnect grant student under this act must not exceed the**
27 **following, as applicable:**

28 **(a)** For a student attending an eligible institution who is
29 eligible for that institution's in-district tuition rate, the

1 student's tuition and mandatory fees minus the student's gift aid.

2 (b) For a student attending an eligible institution who is not
3 eligible for that institution's in-district tuition rate, the cost
4 of tuition at the in-district resident rate and mandatory fees.

5 (2) If awarded, Michigan reconnect grant money must be paid to
6 the eligible institution for credit to the student's account.

7 Sec. 18. (1) A Michigan reconnect grant student who, **with the**
8 **approval of the eligible institution**, takes a leave of absence from
9 ~~an~~**the** eligible institution due to a medical or family hardship
10 may, subject to department approval, continue to receive the grant
11 upon resuming the student's education at an eligible institution if
12 the student continues to meet all applicable eligibility
13 requirements. A leave of absence under this subsection does not
14 disrupt the **minimum-credit** requirement ~~of continuous enrollment~~
15 under section 16(b) and does not count toward the 4-year limitation
16 described in subsection (2) (a).

17 (2) A student is eligible for a Michigan reconnect grant until
18 the occurrence of either of the following:

19 (a) Subject to subsection (1), 4 years have passed since the
20 student became a Michigan reconnect grant student.

21 (b) The student has earned an associate degree. For purposes
22 of this subdivision, a student who has earned a certificate or
23 credential at an eligible institution remains eligible for the
24 Michigan reconnect grant if he or she has not yet earned an
25 associate degree.

26 (3) A student who participates in the Michigan reconnect grant
27 program may transfer from 1 eligible institution to another
28 eligible institution without loss of the grant so long as the
29 student continues to meet all eligibility requirements for the

1 grant.

2 **(4) Repayment of any Michigan reconnect grant money received**
 3 **by a Michigan reconnect grant student who withdraws from a course**
 4 **of study or degree program must be determined in accordance with**
 5 **the department of treasury's state program procedures manual for**
 6 **financial aid professionals.**

7 Sec. 21. (1) The reconnect ~~private training learning~~
 8 ~~initiative~~**short-term training program** is created in the department
 9 for the purpose of providing skills scholarships to individuals
 10 eligible for those scholarships under this section. The department
 11 shall do all of the following:

12 (a) Develop and implement a process by which those seeking to
 13 participate in the reconnect ~~private training learning initiative~~
 14 **short-term training program** as a ~~qualified private training~~
 15 institution offering qualified occupational training programs must
 16 apply to the department.

17 (b) Approve as a qualified occupational training program a
 18 program for which an application is submitted under subdivision (a)
 19 that meets all of the criteria in section ~~13(k)~~, **13(i)**, and post
 20 these criteria to the department's website.

21 ~~(c) Ensure that an applicant under subdivision (a) is first~~
 22 ~~included on this state's eligible training provider list as a~~
 23 ~~qualified private training institution under section 13(l), before~~
 24 ~~each of the applicant's programs receives separate approval from~~
 25 ~~the department as being a qualified occupational training program~~
 26 ~~under section 13(k).~~

27 **(c) (d)** Require that ~~qualified private training~~ institutions
 28 accepted to participate in the reconnect ~~private training learning~~
 29 ~~initiative~~**short-term training program** comply with data requests

1 from the department as a condition to continued participation. For
 2 purposes of this subdivision, the department shall require
 3 institutions operating apprenticeship programs subject to this act
 4 to provide data that tracks relevant work experience required to
 5 verify a student's status as an apprentice.

6 (d) ~~(e)~~ Maintain on its website a list of all qualified
 7 occupational training program options available to potential skills
 8 scholarship recipients.

9 (e) ~~(f)~~ Award skills scholarships, subject to all of the
 10 following:

11 (i) A skills scholarship is a 1-time grant not to exceed
 12 \$1,500.00 to contribute to tuition costs for a qualified
 13 occupational training program at a ~~qualified private~~ training
 14 institution, both of which are approved under this section, for a
 15 training program participant who meets the requirements of
 16 subparagraph (ii). A skills scholarship ~~is available under this~~
 17 ~~section only if the training program participant has applied for~~
 18 ~~all other gift aid, if any is available, and must not cause the~~
 19 ~~total amount of all gift aid, including a skills scholarship~~
 20 ~~awarded under this section, if any, to~~ **must not** exceed the full
 21 amount of the tuition charged for the training program.

22 (ii) To receive the skills scholarship described in
 23 subparagraph (i), a qualified occupational training program
 24 participant must meet all of the following:

25 (A) Be at least 25 years old.

26 (B) Be a resident of this state for at least the immediately
 27 preceding year.

28 (C) Have graduated from high school with a diploma or
 29 certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency

1 certificate. As used in this sub-subparagraph, "high school
2 equivalency certificate" means that term as defined in section 4 of
3 the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1604.

4 (D) Not have previously earned an associate or baccalaureate
5 degree.

6 (E) Timely complete a reconnect ~~private training learning~~
7 ~~initiative skills~~ **short-term training program** scholarship
8 application in a form and manner determined by the department.

9 ~~(F) Timely apply for all other gift aid, if any is available,~~
10 ~~for the qualified occupational training program.~~

11 (iii) The department may award skills scholarships under this
12 section only until money appropriated to the reconnect ~~private~~
13 ~~training learning initiative~~ **short-term training program** has been
14 fully committed.

15 (f) ~~(g)~~—Inform each recipient of a skills scholarship that he
16 or she will remain eligible for the Michigan reconnect grant
17 program to pursue an associate degree or occupational certificate
18 upon completion of a ~~certification course of a study at a qualified~~
19 ~~private~~ **qualified occupational training program at a** training
20 institution, and that community colleges will work to convert the
21 coursework completed at a ~~qualified private~~ **that** training
22 institution into community college credit wherever possible.

23 (2) Except as otherwise provided under subsection (3), the
24 department shall promulgate rules to implement subsection (1) (a),
25 (b), and ~~(d)~~ **(c)** only, pursuant to the administrative procedures
26 act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, subject to all of
27 the following:

28 (a) Under subsection (1) (a), the department is limited to
29 developing the form for the application described in subsection

1 (1) (a) and prescribing the time and manner of its completion.

2 (b) Under subsection (1) (b), the department is limited to
3 applying the eligibility criteria described in subsection (1) (b)
4 and shall not apply any other eligibility criteria.

5 (c) Under subsection ~~(1) (d)~~, **(1) (c)**, the department is limited
6 to requiring compliance with data requests as described in
7 subsection ~~(1) (d)~~. **(1) (c)**.

8 (3) To facilitate implementation of the Michigan reconnect
9 grant program prior to final rules being adopted, the department
10 may develop and administer the reconnect ~~private training learning~~
11 ~~initiative~~ **short-term training program** in accordance with its
12 proposed rules or other policy or directive of the department
13 established pursuant to this act.

14 Sec. 23. ~~(1) The annual appropriation for the first full year~~
15 ~~of the reconnect private training learning initiative must not~~
16 ~~exceed \$1,500,000.00.~~

17 ~~(2)~~ The department shall annually submit a written report to
18 both houses of the legislature that explains the results of the
19 initiative. The report must include all of the following for the
20 immediately preceding year:

21 (a) The total number of applicants that sought approval as
22 ~~qualified private training institutions under section 21(1) (a) to~~
23 ~~(e);~~ **and (b)**; the total number of institutions approved; a list of
24 the names of those approved institutions; and the total number and
25 amount of skills scholarships that were awarded by each approved
26 institution.

27 (b) The total number of programs for which applications were
28 submitted for approval as qualified occupational training programs
29 under section 21(1) (a) ~~to (e);~~ **and (b)**; the total number of

1 programs approved; a list of the names or short descriptions of
2 each of those approved programs; and the total number and amount of
3 skills scholarships that were awarded for each approved program.

4 (c) The total number of individuals who applied for skills
5 scholarships under section ~~21(1)(f)(ii)~~; **21(1)(e)(ii)**; the total
6 number of individuals awarded skills scholarships; and the total
7 number of skills scholarships recipients who completed qualified
8 occupational training programs.

9 (d) Any other relevant information, as determined by the
10 department.

11 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
12 unless House Bill No. 6129 of the 101st Legislature is enacted into
13 law.