

HOUSE BILL No. 4277

February 15, 2005, Introduced by Reps. Gosselin, Garfield, Hoogendyk, Drolet, Pastor and Stahl and referred to the Committee on Higher Education and Career Preparation.

A bill to amend 1999 PA 94, entitled
"Michigan merit award scholarship act,"
by amending section 7b (MCL 390.1457b), as added by 2004 PA 595.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 7b. (1) In addition to the requirements set forth in
2 section 7(2) or (3) or section 7a(1), to be eligible for the award
3 of a Michigan merit award scholarship under this act, the board
4 must find that a student satisfies all of the following:

5 (a) The student has graduated from high school or passed the
6 general educational development (GED) test or other graduate
7 equivalency examination approved by the state board.

8 (b) The student graduated from high school or passed the
9 general educational development (GED) test or other graduate

1 equivalency examination approved by the state board within 1 of the
2 following time periods:

3 (i) If the student graduated from high school or passed the
4 test or examination before March 1, 2002, within the 7-year period
5 preceding the student's application to receive his or her Michigan
6 merit award scholarship money.

7 (ii) If the student graduated on or after March 1, 2002, within
8 the 4-year period preceding the date of the student's application
9 to receive his or her Michigan merit award scholarship money, or if
10 the student becomes a member of the United States armed forces or
11 peace corps during this 4-year period and serves for 4 years or
12 less, the 4-year period is extended by a period equal to the number
13 of days the student served as a member of the United States armed
14 forces or peace corps. The board may also extend the 4-year period
15 if the board determines that an extension is warranted because of
16 an illness or disability of the student or in the student's
17 immediate family or another family emergency.

18 (c) The student is enrolled in an approved postsecondary
19 educational institution. For students who qualify under section
20 7(2)(c), the student is enrolled in a vocational or technical
21 education program at an approved postsecondary educational
22 institution.

23 (d) The student has not been convicted of a felony involving
24 an assault, physical injury, or death.

25 (e) The student satisfies any additional eligibility
26 requirements established by the board. **THE BOARD'S AUTHORITY TO**
27 **ESTABLISH OR ENFORCE ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS IS SUBJECT**

1 **TO SUBSECTION (7).**

2 (2) For a middle school assessment test or high school
3 assessment test administered after January 1, 2000, the board shall
4 not use that assessment test to determine eligibility for a
5 Michigan merit award scholarship under this section for a
6 particular year unless the board has reviewed and approved that
7 assessment test before it was administered for that year.

8 (3) The board shall provide each pupil written notice of
9 whether or not the pupil is eligible for the award of 1 or more
10 Michigan merit award scholarships described in this act. If the
11 pupil is eligible, the written notice shall also contain the
12 Michigan merit award scholarship amount for which the pupil is
13 eligible, how the pupil applies for payment of Michigan merit award
14 scholarship, and any other information the board considers
15 necessary regarding qualification requirements or conditions
16 relating to the use of the Michigan merit award scholarship.

17 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that the level of
18 pupil performance required to achieve qualifying results in a
19 subject area of an assessment test remains approximately the same,
20 and that the board not reduce the required level of pupil
21 performance as a means of increasing the number of Michigan merit
22 award scholarships awarded.

23 (5) A pupil who does not initially receive qualifying results
24 shall be extended an opportunity to achieve the requisite
25 qualifying results by taking a subsequent assessment test. A pupil
26 described in this subsection who is enrolled in grade 12 in the

1 2006-2007 school year, or enrolled in grade 12 in the first
2 calendar year after the approval described in section 7(6) occurs
3 if that subsection applies, may elect either of the following:

4 (a) To take the high school assessment test for the purpose of
5 qualifying for a Michigan merit award scholarship under section
6 7(2).

7 (b) To take the Michigan merit examination for the purpose of
8 qualifying for a Michigan merit award scholarship under section
9 7(3).

10 (6) A nonpublic school pupil or home school pupil may take,
11 and the board shall administer if requested, an assessment test at
12 a site designated by the board.

13 (7) A STUDENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLETE VOLUNTEER OR
14 COMMUNITY SERVICE AS A REQUIREMENT FOR OR CONDITION OF RECEIVING A
15 MICHIGAN MERIT AWARD SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS ACT. THE BOARD SHALL
16 NOT IMPOSE OR ENFORCE A VOLUNTEER OR COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT.
17 AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION, "COMMUNITY SERVICE" INCLUDES THE
18 ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN THE BOARD'S RESOLUTION 2004-1, ADOPTED BY
19 THE BOARD ON AUGUST 17, 2004.