

# HOUSE BILL NO. 4464

April 16, 2019, Introduced by Reps. Kennedy, Shannon, Brenda Carter, Koleszar, Stone, Pagan and Gay-Dagnogo and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to establish a tuition assistance program for certain undergraduate students in this state attending certain colleges, universities, and junior and community colleges; to provide for the administration of the tuition assistance program; and to prescribe certain powers and duties of certain state officers, agencies, and departments.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

- 1           Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
2 "Michigan opportunity initiative act".



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1           Sec. 2. As used in this act:

2           (a) "Continuous enrollment" means enrollment in at least 2  
3 semesters or the equivalent in terms or quarters, as determined by  
4 the department, during each academic year for a number of  
5 consecutive academic years.

6           (b) "Department" means the department of talent and economic  
7 development.

8           (c) "Eligible community college" means an accredited junior or  
9 community college that meets all of the following:

10           (i) Is a junior or community college established under the  
11 community college act of 1966, 1966 PA 331, MCL 389.1 to 389.195,  
12 or part 25 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1601 to  
13 380.1607, or is an independent nonprofit junior or community  
14 college in this state.

15           (ii) Participates in the Michigan transfer agreement program  
16 referred to in sections 210b and 265a of the school aid act of  
17 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1810b and 388.1865a, or other similar  
18 program, as required by the department.

19           (iii) Participates in the success-coach program described in  
20 section 4(h).

21           (iv) Complies with applicable restraints on fee and tuition  
22 rate increases, if any, provided for in article II of the school  
23 aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1801 to 388.1830.

24           (d) "Eligible university" means an institution that meets both  
25 of the following:

26           (i) Is one of the following:

27           (A) A state university described in section 4, 5, or 6 of  
28 article VIII of the state constitution of 1963.

29           (B) An independent nonprofit college or university in this



1 state that grants 4-year degrees.

2 (ii) Complies with applicable restraints on fee and tuition  
3 rate increases, if any, provided for in article III of the school  
4 aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1836 to 388.1891.

5 (e) "Full-time student" means a student enrolled in at least  
6 20 semester credit hours in an academic year or the equivalent  
7 number of term or quarter credit hours in an academic year, as  
8 determined by the department.

9 (f) "Gift aid" means scholarships or grants, other than  
10 financial assistance provided under the Michigan promise zone  
11 authority act, 2008 PA 549, MCL 390.1661 to 390.1679, from sources  
12 that do not require repayment. The term does not include student  
13 loans, work-study awards, or qualified withdrawals made from  
14 education savings accounts to pay higher education expenses  
15 pursuant to the Michigan education savings program act, 2000 PA  
16 161, MCL 390.1471 to 390.1486.

17 (g) "High school equivalency certificate" means that term as  
18 defined in section 4 of the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL  
19 388.1604.

20 (h) "Michigan opportunity initiative student" means a student  
21 admitted to and enrolled in an eligible community college or  
22 eligible university and receiving tuition assistance under this  
23 act.

24 Sec. 3. The department shall administer the Michigan  
25 opportunity initiative program in the following phases:

26 (a) Phase I, as provided for in section 4, which the  
27 department shall implement not more than 30 days after the  
28 effective date of this act.

29 (b) Phase II, as provided for in section 5, which the



1 department shall implement after Phase I is underway on a date to  
2 be determined by the department.

3 Sec. 4. The department shall administer Phase I of the  
4 Michigan opportunity initiative program, subject to the following:

5 (a) To be eligible for tuition assistance in Phase I of the  
6 program, an individual must meet all of the following conditions by  
7 the date of his or her college enrollment described in subparagraph

8 (iii):

9 (i) Be a resident of this state for at least the immediately  
10 preceding year.

11 (ii) Have graduated from high school with a diploma or  
12 certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency  
13 certificate.

14 (iii) Be enrolled as a full-time student in a degree or  
15 certificate program at an eligible community college not later than  
16 the academic year following his or her completion of high school or  
17 receipt of a high school equivalency certificate.

18 (b) Students applying for tuition assistance in Phase I of the  
19 program must complete a Michigan opportunity initiative application  
20 for their initial year of enrollment in accordance with a schedule  
21 determined by the department. Students must also complete the Free  
22 Application for Federal Student Aid each academic year in which  
23 they seek to receive tuition assistance in Phase I of the program.

24 (c) To continue to receive tuition assistance in Phase I of  
25 the program, a student must do all of the following:

26 (i) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (e), maintain  
27 continuous enrollment as a full-time student in a degree or  
28 certificate program at an eligible community college.

29 (ii) Maintain satisfactory academic standing as determined by



1 the eligible community college and department rules.

2 (iii) Participate in the success-coaches program described in  
3 subdivision (h).

4 (d) Subject to appropriation, the annual amount of tuition  
5 assistance to be awarded to a student in Phase I of the program is  
6 equal to a student's cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the  
7 eligible community college attended less all other gift aid. Gift  
8 aid shall be credited first to the student's tuition and mandatory  
9 fees. If awarded, tuition assistance shall be paid to the eligible  
10 community college for credit to the student's account.

11 (e) A Michigan opportunity initiative student participating in  
12 Phase I of the program who takes a leave of absence from an  
13 eligible community college due to a medical or family hardship may,  
14 subject to department approval, continue to receive tuition  
15 assistance upon resuming the student's education at an eligible  
16 community college if the student continues to meet all applicable  
17 eligibility requirements. A leave of absence under this subdivision  
18 does not disrupt the requirement of continuous enrollment under  
19 subdivision (c) (i) and does not count toward the 3-year limitation  
20 described in subdivision (f) (i).

21 (f) A student is eligible for tuition assistance in Phase I of  
22 the program until the occurrence of either of the following:

23 (i) Subject to subdivision (e), 3 years have passed since the  
24 student became a Michigan opportunity initiative student at an  
25 eligible community college.

26 (ii) The student has earned 60 semester credits or the  
27 equivalent number of term or quarter credits at an eligible  
28 community college, as determined by the department.

29 (g) A student who participates in Phase I of the Michigan



1 opportunity initiative program may transfer from 1 eligible  
 2 community college to another eligible community college and  
 3 continue in the program if the student continues to meet all  
 4 eligibility requirements.

5 (h) The department shall establish a success-coach program at  
 6 each eligible community college that participates in Phase I of the  
 7 Michigan opportunity initiative program. The success-coach program  
 8 must include campus-based advisors who will provide Michigan  
 9 opportunity initiative students at eligible community colleges with  
 10 support services aimed at helping students succeed with their  
 11 studies and formulate and follow effective academic and career  
 12 plans. The department shall determine the qualifications for these  
 13 advisors, their job duties, processes for hiring and training them,  
 14 the number needed for a satisfactory coach-to-student ratio, and  
 15 other requirements related to the success-coach program.

16 Sec. 5. The department shall administer Phase II of the  
 17 Michigan opportunity initiative program, subject to the following:

18 (a) To be eligible for tuition assistance in Phase II of the  
 19 program, an individual must meet all of the following conditions by  
 20 the date of his or her university enrollment described in  
 21 subparagraph (iii):

22 (i) Be a resident of this state for at least the immediately  
 23 preceding year.

24 (ii) Have graduated from high school with a diploma or  
 25 certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency  
 26 certificate.

27 (iii) Be enrolled in a 4-year degree program as a full-time  
 28 student at an eligible university not later than the academic year  
 29 following his or her completion of high school or receipt of a high



1 school equivalency certificate.

2 (iv) Have earned a 3.0 grade point average in high school or  
3 the equivalent of a 3.0 test score on the high school equivalency  
4 test taken to obtain the high school equivalency certificate as  
5 defined in section 2(g), as determined by the department.

6 (v) Be a member of a household with an annual household income  
7 of not more than \$80,000.00 under rules promulgated by the  
8 department.

9 (b) Students applying for tuition assistance in Phase II of  
10 the program must complete a Michigan opportunity initiative  
11 application for their initial year of enrollment in accordance with  
12 a schedule determined by the department. Students must also  
13 complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid each academic  
14 year in which they seek to receive tuition assistance in Phase II  
15 of the program.

16 (c) To continue to receive tuition assistance in Phase II of  
17 the program, a student must do all of the following:

18 (i) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (f), maintain  
19 continuous enrollment in a 4-year degree program as a full-time  
20 student at an eligible university.

21 (ii) Maintain satisfactory academic standing as determined by  
22 the eligible university and department rules.

23 (iii) Continue to be a member of a household with an annual  
24 household income of not more than \$80,000.00 under rules  
25 promulgated by the department.

26 (d) The annual amount of tuition assistance to be awarded to a  
27 student in Phase II of the program must not exceed the lesser of  
28 the following:

29 (i) The cost of the student's tuition and mandatory fees at the



1 eligible university attended less all other gift aid.

2 (ii) \$2,500.00.

3 (e) Awards of tuition assistance in Phase II of the program  
4 are subject to appropriation and shall be awarded on a first-come,  
5 first-served basis if insufficient funds are appropriated for all  
6 eligible students. If awarded, tuition assistance shall be paid to  
7 the eligible university for credit to the student's account.

8 (f) A Michigan opportunity initiative student participating in  
9 Phase II of the program who takes a leave of absence from an  
10 eligible university due to a medical or family hardship may,  
11 subject to department approval, continue to receive tuition  
12 assistance upon resuming the student's education at an eligible  
13 university if the student continues to meet all applicable  
14 eligibility requirements. A leave of absence under this subdivision  
15 does not disrupt the requirement of continuous enrollment under  
16 subdivision (c) (i) and does not count toward the 2-year limitation  
17 described in subdivision (g) (i).

18 (g) A student is eligible for tuition assistance in Phase II  
19 of the program until the occurrence of either of the following:

20 (i) Subject to subdivision (f), 2 years have passed since the  
21 student became a Michigan opportunity initiative student at an  
22 eligible university.

23 (ii) The student has earned 60 semester credits or the  
24 equivalent number of term or quarter credits, as determined by the  
25 department.

26 (h) A student who participates in Phase II of the Michigan  
27 opportunity initiative program may transfer from 1 eligible  
28 university to another eligible university and continue in the  
29 program so long as the student continues to meet all eligibility





1 requirements.

2       Sec. 6. The department shall promulgate rules to implement  
3 this act pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969,  
4 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

5       Enacting section 1. It is the intent of the legislature that  
6 money in the talent investment fund created in section 8a of the  
7 higher education loan authority act, 1975 PA 222, MCL 390.1158a,  
8 shall be expended, upon appropriation, for the purpose of funding  
9 the Michigan opportunity initiative program established in the  
10 Michigan opportunity initiative act, in accordance with section 8a  
11 of the higher education loan authority act, 1975 PA 222, MCL  
12 390.1158a, which states that money in the talent investment fund,  
13 upon appropriation, shall be expended "for the purpose of enhancing  
14 the economic talent of Michigan residents, increasing access to  
15 academic and technical credentials or certifications, improving  
16 educational opportunities, or other purposes as provided by law".

