

HOUSE BILL NO. 5899

June 24, 2020, Introduced by Rep. Camilleri and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1979 PA 94, entitled
"The state school aid act of 1979,"
by amending section 256 (MCL 388.1856), as amended by 2020 PA 69.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 256. (1) The funds appropriated in section 236 for the
2 tuition incentive program must be distributed as provided in this
3 section and pursuant to the administrative procedures for the
4 tuition incentive program of the department of treasury.

5 (2) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Phase I" means the first part of the tuition incentive



1 program defined as the academic period of 80 semester or 120 term
2 credits, or less, leading to an associate degree or certificate.
3 Students must be enrolled in a certificate or associate degree
4 program and taking classes within the program of study for a
5 certificate or associate degree. Tuition will not be covered for
6 courses outside of a certificate or associate degree program.

7 (b) "Phase II" means the second part of the tuition incentive
8 program that provides assistance in the third and fourth year of 4-
9 year degree programs.

10 (c) "Department" means the department of treasury.

11 (d) "High school equivalency certificate" means that term as
12 defined in section 4.

13 (3) An individual must meet the following basic criteria and
14 financial thresholds to be eligible for tuition incentive program
15 benefits:

16 (a) To be eligible for phase I, an individual must meet all of
17 the following criteria:

18 (i) Apply for certification to the department any time after he
19 or she begins the sixth grade but before ~~August~~ **December** 31 of the
20 school year in which he or she graduates from high school or before
21 achieving a high school equivalency certificate.

22 (ii) Be less than 20 years of age at the time he or she
23 graduates from high school with a diploma or certificate of
24 completion or achieves a high school equivalency certificate or,
25 for students attending a 5-year middle college approved by the
26 Michigan department of education, be less than 21 years of age when
27 he or she graduates from high school.

28 (iii) Be a United States citizen and a resident of this state
29 according to institutional criteria.



1 (iv) Be at least a half-time student, earning less than 80
2 semester or 120 term credits at a participating educational
3 institution within 4 years of high school graduation or achievement
4 of a high school equivalency certificate. All program eligibility
5 expires 6 years from high school graduation or achievement of a
6 high school equivalency certificate.

7 (v) Meet the satisfactory academic progress policy of the
8 educational institution he or she attends.

9 (b) To be eligible for phase II, an individual must meet
10 either of the following criteria in addition to the criteria in
11 subdivision (a):

12 (i) Complete at least 56 transferable semester or 84
13 transferable term credits.

14 (ii) Obtain an associate degree or certificate at a
15 participating institution.

16 (c) To be eligible for phase I or phase II, an individual must
17 be financially eligible as determined by the department. An
18 individual is financially eligible for the tuition incentive
19 program if he or she was eligible for Medicaid from this state for
20 24 months within the 36 consecutive months before application. The
21 department shall accept certification of Medicaid eligibility only
22 from the department of health and human services for the purposes
23 of verifying if a person is Medicaid eligible for 24 months within
24 the 36 consecutive months before application. Certification of
25 eligibility may begin in the sixth grade.

26 (4) For phase I, the department shall provide payment on
27 behalf of a person eligible under subsection (3). The department
28 shall only accept standard per-credit hour tuition billings and
29 shall reject billings that are excessive or outside the guidelines



1 for the type of educational institution.

2 (5) For phase I, all of the following apply:

3 (a) Payments for associate degree or certificate programs must
4 not be made for more than 80 semester or 120 term credits for any
5 individual student at any participating institution.

6 (b) For persons enrolled at a Michigan community college, the
7 department shall pay the current in-district tuition and mandatory
8 fees. For persons residing in an area that is not included in any
9 community college district, the out-of-district tuition rate may be
10 authorized.

11 (c) For persons enrolled at a Michigan public university, the
12 department shall pay lower division resident tuition and mandatory
13 fees for the current year.

14 (d) For persons enrolled at a Michigan independent, nonprofit
15 degree-granting college or university, or a Michigan federal
16 tribally controlled community college, or Focus: HOPE, the
17 department shall pay mandatory fees for the current year and a per-
18 credit payment that does not exceed the average community college
19 in-district per-credit tuition rate as reported on August 1, for
20 the immediately preceding academic year.

21 (6) A person participating in phase II may be eligible for
22 additional funds not to exceed \$500.00 per semester or \$400.00 per
23 term up to a maximum of \$2,000.00 subject to the following
24 conditions:

25 (a) Credits are earned in a 4-year program at a Michigan
26 degree-granting 4-year college or university.

27 (b) The tuition reimbursement is for coursework completed
28 within 30 months of completion of the phase I requirements.

29 (7) The department shall work closely with participating



1 institutions to develop an application and eligibility
2 determination process that will provide the highest level of
3 participation and ensure that all requirements of the program are
4 met.

5 (8) Applications for the tuition incentive program may be
6 approved at any time after the student begins the sixth grade. If a
7 determination of financial eligibility is made, that determination
8 is valid as long as the student meets all other program
9 requirements and conditions.

10 (9) Except as otherwise provided in section 3(d) of the
11 Michigan reconnect grant act and section 17 of the Michigan
12 reconnect grant recipient act, each institution shall ensure that
13 all known available restricted grants for tuition and fees are used
14 prior to billing the tuition incentive program for any portion of a
15 student's tuition and fees.

16 (10) The department shall ensure that the tuition incentive
17 program is well publicized and that eligible Medicaid clients are
18 provided information on the program. The department shall provide
19 the necessary funding and staff to fully operate the program.

20 (11) Any unexpended and unencumbered funds remaining on
21 September 30, 2020 from the amounts appropriated in section 236 for
22 the tuition incentive program for fiscal year 2019-2020 do not
23 lapse on September 30, 2020, but continue to be available for
24 expenditure for tuition incentive program funds under a work
25 project account.

26 (12) The department of treasury shall collaborate with the
27 center to use the P-20 longitudinal data system to report the
28 following information for each qualified postsecondary institution:

29 (a) The number of phase I students in the most recently



1 completed academic year who in any academic year received a tuition
2 incentive program award and who successfully completed a degree or
3 certificate program. Cohort graduation rates for phase I students
4 shall be calculated using the established success rate methodology
5 developed by the center in collaboration with the postsecondary
6 institutions.

7 (b) The number of students in the most recently completed
8 academic year who in any academic year received a Pell grant at the
9 reporting institution and who successfully completed a degree or
10 certificate program. Cohort graduation rates for students who
11 received Pell grants must be calculated using the established
12 success rate methodology developed by the center in collaboration
13 with the postsecondary institutions.

14 (13) If a qualified postsecondary institution does not report
15 the data necessary to comply with subsection (12) to the P-20
16 longitudinal data system, the institution shall report, in a form
17 and manner satisfactory to the department of treasury and the
18 center, all of the information needed to comply with subsection
19 (12) by December 1, 2020.

20 (14) Beginning in fiscal year 2020-2021, if a qualified
21 postsecondary institution does not report the data necessary to
22 complete the reporting in subsection (12) to the P-20 longitudinal
23 data system by October 15 for the prior academic year, the
24 department of treasury shall not award phase I tuition incentive
25 program funding to otherwise eligible students enrolled in that
26 institution until the data are submitted.

