

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 257

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE POSTSECONDARY CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP; AMENDING SECTION 33-4605, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SOURCE OF MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE POSTSECONDARY CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 33-4605, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

33-4605. POSTSECONDARY CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (2), (3) and (4) of this section, beginning with the spring 2016 graduating class:

(a) Any student who has earned at least ten (10) postsecondary semester credits upon graduation from an accredited high school in Idaho, or its equivalent, shall be entitled to a postsecondary credit scholarship in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) that shall be used for tuition and fees at any eligible institution.

(b) Any student who has earned at least twenty (20) postsecondary semester credits upon graduation from an accredited high school in Idaho, or its equivalent, shall be entitled to a postsecondary credit scholarship in the amount of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) that shall be used for tuition and fees at any eligible institution.

(c) Any student who has earned an associate degree from an accredited institution upon graduation from an accredited high school in Idaho, or its equivalent, shall be entitled to a postsecondary credit scholarship in the amount of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) that shall be used for tuition and fees at any eligible institution.

(2) For subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section, the award amount shall be limited by the number of credits accepted by the eligible institution where the scholarship is to be applied. For subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section, the awards shall be annual awards and one-quarter (1/4) of the scholarship amount shall be distributed in each semester of full-time attendance until the total scholarship is expended or expires.

(3) In order to be eligible for a full postsecondary credit scholarship set forth in subsection (1) of this section:

(a) The student must be awarded a postsecondary merit-based scholarship in an amount at least equal to the postsecondary credit scholarship amount awarded in the same school year, provided that the match funds for each scholarship must come from a business or industry, or entities representing business or industry, and may not be ~~from a foundation affiliated with the postsecondary institution or from appropriated or nonappropriated funds of the postsecondary institution or from a foundation affiliated with the postsecondary institution, unless the funds~~

1 were donated to the postsecondary institution specifically as a match
2 for the postsecondary credit scholarship program;

3 (b) The student must have graduated from an accredited high school in
4 Idaho, or its equivalent; and

5 (c) Except for the first semester in which the postsecondary credit
6 scholarship amount is distributed, in order to receive the scholarship
7 distribution in a given semester, the student must have successfully
8 passed at least twelve (12) credits during the immediately preceding
9 semester in which the scholarship was distributed.

10 (4) Eligible students will be awarded the postsecondary credit schol-
11 arship based on grade point average rank subject to annual legislative ap-
12 propriation.

13 (5) A student shall use the postsecondary credit scholarship within
14 four (4) years of his or her high school graduation date, at which time the
15 scholarship shall expire and may no longer be used.

16 (6) A student is entitled to only one (1) of the postsecondary credit
17 scholarships set forth in subsection (1) of this section.

18 (7) If a student has been awarded scholarships that pay for one hun-
19 dred percent (100%) of the cost of tuition and fees, then part or all of the
20 remaining postsecondary credit scholarship moneys may be used for room and
21 board at the discretion of the eligible institution where the student will
22 attend.

23 (8) This section shall be funded from the advanced opportunities
24 program within the educational support program. The state department of
25 education shall pass through to the office of the state board of education
26 the necessary amount for distribution not to exceed one million dollars
27 (\$1,000,000) in fiscal year 2017, and not to exceed two million dollars
28 (\$2,000,000) in fiscal year 2018, and every fiscal year thereafter.

29 (9) No later than January 15 of each year, the state board of education
30 shall report to the senate and the house of representatives education com-
31 mittees the number of scholarships awarded pursuant to this section during
32 the previous school year. The report shall include the total amount of mon-
33 eys distributed for the scholarships.

34 (10) For the purposes of this section, "eligible institution" has the
35 same meaning as provided in section 33-4303(2) (b), Idaho Code.

36 (11) As used in this section, "merit-based scholarship" means a schol-
37 arship in which academic achievement at the high school level is a minimum
38 eligibility requirement and awards are made based on the achievement of the
39 student.