

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 741

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE IDAHO LAUNCH GRANT PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 72-1204, IDAHO  
2 CODE, TO DEFINE A TERM AND TO REVISE DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTION  
3 72-1205, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE IDAHO LAUNCH  
4 GRANT PROGRAM AND THE PRIORITIZATION OF GRANT AWARDS; AMENDING SECTION  
5 72-1206, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE IN-DEMAND CA-  
6 REERS FUND; AMENDING SECTION 33-4602, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE A PROVISION  
7 REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN FUNDS TO THE IN-DEMAND CAREERS FUND;  
8 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
9

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

11 SECTION 1. That Section 72-1204, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 72-1204. IDAHO LAUNCH GRANT PROGRAM AND IN-DEMAND CAREERS FUND -- DEF-  
14 INITIONS. (1) As used in this section through section 72-1206, Idaho Code:

15 (a) "Board" means the state board of education.

16 (b) "Council" means the workforce development council established in  
17 this chapter.

18 (c) "Eligible adult learner" means an Idaho resident who is pursuing  
19 education or training for an in-demand career.

20 (d) "Eligible coursework" means courses or training necessary for the  
21 completion of a participant's declared in-demand career.

22 ~~(d)~~ (e) "Eligible education expenses" means student tuition and fees  
23 at an eligible institution for eligible coursework; however, in no  
24 case shall the council reimburse more than eighty percent (80%) of a  
25 program's total tuition and fees or more than eight thousand dollars  
26 (\$8,000), whichever is less.

27 ~~(e)~~ (f) "Eligible institution" means a training provider as recognized  
28 by the council under the workforce innovation and opportunity act or the  
29 workforce development training fund. Eligible institution also means  
30 a board of trustees of a community college established pursuant to the  
31 provisions of chapter 21, title 33, Idaho Code.

32 ~~(f)~~ (g) "Eligible student" means a student who:

33 (i) Is an Idaho resident;

34 (ii) Will graduate from an accredited high school or its equiva-  
35 lent in Idaho as determined by the board beginning with the spring  
36 2024 graduating class;

37 (iii) Has enrolled in or applied to an eligible institution and  
38 begins enrollment in the fall semester following graduation,  
39 unless the council grants an extension for extenuating circum-  
40 stances such as those outlined in section 72-1205, Idaho Code; and

41 (iv) Has used next steps Idaho or an equivalent career exploration  
42 program accepted by the council and has completed a career pathway

1 plan that meets the minimum requirements established by the coun-  
2 cil.

3 ~~(g)~~ (h) "Grant" means an amount to be determined by the council that  
4 shall not exceed eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) per eligible student.

5 ~~(h)~~ (i) "Grant distribution platform" means a digital platform through  
6 which grant funds are transferred from the council to the account of a  
7 participant to be used for eligible education expenses.

8 ~~(i)~~ "In-demand careers" means careers that have a high number of open-  
9 ings in Idaho or an expected high rate of growth in Idaho. In-demand ca-  
10 reers are to be determined annually by the council based on job market  
11 data and shall be submitted annually in a report to the legislature by  
12 January 1.

13 (j) "In-demand careers" means careers that have a positive economic  
14 output for the state of Idaho and increase economic mobility for the  
15 people of Idaho. Factors including but not limited to the number of  
16 job openings, the rate of job growth, and the length of the training  
17 program shall be incorporated to create a matrix of careers and train-  
18 ing programs that align to in-demand careers. Careers that require a  
19 postbaccalaureate degree for entry into the profession shall not be  
20 included in the matrix or as an in-demand career.

21 ~~(j)~~ (k) "Participant" means an Idaho resident for whom a grant is  
22 awarded under section 72-1205, Idaho Code, and who has met the minimum  
23 academic standards of, and has been accepted into, an eligible institu-  
24 tion.

25 ~~(k)~~ (l) "Program" means the Idaho launch grant program established by  
26 section 72-1205, Idaho Code.

27 ~~(l)~~ (m) "Resident" means an individual meeting legal residency re-  
28 quirements as defined in section 33-3717B, Idaho Code.

29 (2) The provisions of this section shall be null, void, and of no force  
30 and effect on and after July 1, 2029.

31 SECTION 2. That Section 72-1205, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
32 amended to read as follows:

33 72-1205. IDAHO LAUNCH GRANT PROGRAM. (1) There is hereby established  
34 the Idaho launch grant program to be administered by the council according  
35 to the provisions of this section. The purpose of the program is to provide  
36 education grants for eligible students.

37 (2) In order to administer the program, the council shall consult with  
38 necessary agencies to:

39 (a) Create and administer, or designate a third party to create and ad-  
40 minister, a grant distribution platform;

41 (b) Establish a grant application process for eligible students. To  
42 ensure eligible students receive notification prior to postsecondary  
43 institution enrollment deadlines, the council may stagger applications  
44 so that initial grant awards are announced by December 31 in the year  
45 preceding an eligible student's graduation from high school and that  
46 additional grant awards be made no later than June ± 30 of the academic  
47 year the eligible student graduates from high school. Additional grant  
48 award announcements may be made after such date based on the availabil-  
49 ity of funds;

1 (c) Award grants to eligible students, subject to legislative appro-  
 2 priation and to the following conditions, beginning with the graduating  
 3 class of 2025:

4 (i) If eligible student applications exceed available funding in  
 5 a fiscal year, grant awards shall be prioritized first based on the  
 6 pursuit of an in-demand careers- and based on the highest rankings  
 7 in the matrix established pursuant to section 72-1204(j), Idaho  
 8 Code;

9 (ii) If additional funds remain, prioritization shall then be  
 10 based on an eligible student's financial need as verified by the  
 11 Idaho state tax commission using the prior year's tax return, most  
 12 recent income documents, or other criteria determined by the work-  
 13 force development council established in this chapter; and

14 ~~(ii)~~ (iii) If available funding in a fiscal year exceeds eligible  
 15 students, any unused appropriations may be used in accordance with  
 16 section 72-1206(4), Idaho Code; and

17 (d) Take other such actions as are necessary to implement and enforce  
 18 the provisions of this section.

19 (3) Participants must expend all grant funds within three (3) years of  
 20 the award date. Any remaining funds after a break in enrollment exceeding  
 21 six (6) months or unused funds at the end of the three (3) year period shall  
 22 revert to the in-demand careers fund established in section 72-1206, Idaho  
 23 Code. The council or its designated staff may grant an extension or excep-  
 24 tion by demonstrating to the council an extenuating circumstance, including  
 25 but not limited to religious service, military service, structured volun-  
 26 teer service, or health or medical issues.

27 (4) No more than one half (1/2) of the initial grant award may be ex-  
 28 pended by a participant in any academic year; provided, however, that this  
 29 subsection shall not apply:

30 (a) To a participant in a program that is less than twelve (12) months in  
 31 length; or

32 (b) In other extenuating circumstances as determined by the council.

33 (5) Grant awards shall be capped at one (1) grant per eligible student.

34 (6) The council shall adopt policies outlining triggering events that  
 35 may lead to earlier reversion of student grants or repayment grants, in-  
 36 cluding but not limited to unsatisfactory academic progress, expulsion, or  
 37 transfer to an out-of-state program prior to attainment of a credential or  
 38 degree. Any reverted or repaid grants shall be paid to the in-demand careers  
 39 fund established in section 72-1206, Idaho Code.

40 (7) The provisions of this section shall be null, void, and of no force  
 41 and effect on and after July 1, 2029.

42 SECTION 3. That Section 72-1206, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
 43 amended to read as follows:

44 72-1206. IN-DEMAND CAREERS FUND. (1) There is hereby established in  
 45 the state treasury the in-demand careers fund.

46 (2) Moneys in the in-demand careers fund are subject to legislative ap-  
 47 propriation and shall consist of the following:

48 (a) Legislative appropriations;

49 (b) Donations and contributions made to the fund;

1 (c) Interest earned on idle moneys in the fund;

2 (d) Moneys transferred pursuant to section 63-3638(17), Idaho Code;  
3 and

4 (e) Moneys reverted or repaid to the fund pursuant to section 72-1205,  
5 Idaho Code; ~~and.~~

6 ~~(f) Moneys transferred pursuant to section 33-4602(14), Idaho Code.~~

7 (3) The in-demand careers fund shall be used to award grants as outlined  
8 in section 72-1205, Idaho Code.

9 (4) When the available appropriation in a fiscal year exceeds partici-  
10 pants, the council may use excess moneys as follows:

11 (a) Up to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) of the remaining appropri-  
12 ation may be used to provide enhanced grant funding to either eligible  
13 students or eligible adult learners based upon the following condi-  
14 tions:

15 (i) If potential awards from the council exceed available funding  
16 from the enhanced grants, awards shall be prioritized first based  
17 on the pursuit of in-demand careers; and

18 (ii) If, following the prioritization provided for in subpara-  
19 graph (i) of this paragraph, additional moneys remain for awards,  
20 prioritization shall then be based on financial need.

21 (b) The remaining appropriation shall be retained in the fund and  
22 be subject to legislative appropriation in subsequent legislative  
23 sessions for the purposes of expanding in-demand career training oppor-  
24 tunities.

25 (5) By January 1 each year, the council shall report sufficient data to  
26 the legislature regarding:

27 (a) The number and demographics of eligible students applying for  
28 grants;

29 (b) The number and type of eligible institutions approved by the coun-  
30 cil;

31 (c) The list and matrix of in-demand careers prioritized by the council  
32 matrix and verified by the council pursuant to section 72-1204(j),  
33 Idaho Code;

34 (d) The number of grants awarded, the number of grants reverted, and de-  
35 demographics of participants; and

36 (e) Data to demonstrate the effectiveness of the program, including  
37 but not limited to program completion rates, satisfactory academic  
38 progress, job placement rates, and retention rates of participants in  
39 Idaho upon program completion.

40 SECTION 4. That Section 33-4602, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
41 amended to read as follows:

42 33-4602. ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES -- RULEMAKING. (1) Students attend-  
43 ing public schools in Idaho will be eligible for four thousand one hundred  
44 twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) to use toward overload courses, dual credits,  
45 postsecondary credit-bearing examinations, career technical certificate  
46 examinations, career technical education workforce training courses, col-  
47 lege entrance examinations, and preliminary college entrance examinations.  
48 Students may access these funds in grades 7 through 12 for:

1 (a) Overload courses, the distribution of which may not exceed two  
2 hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225) per overload course. A student  
3 must take and successfully be completing a full credit load within a  
4 given school year to be eligible for funding of an overload course. An  
5 overload course must be taken for high school credit to be eligible for  
6 funding. To qualify as an eligible overload course for the program, the  
7 course must:

8 (i) Be offered by a provider accredited by the organization that  
9 accredits Idaho public schools; and

10 (ii) Be taught by an individual certified to teach the grade and  
11 subject area of the course in Idaho.

12 (b) Eligible dual credits, the distribution of which may not exceed  
13 seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per one (1) dual credit hour. Dual credit  
14 courses must be offered by a regionally accredited postsecondary insti-  
15 tution. To qualify as an eligible dual credit course, the course must be  
16 a credit-bearing 100 level course or higher.

17 (c) Eligible postsecondary credit-bearing or career technical cer-  
18 tificate examinations. The state department of education shall main-  
19 tain a list of eligible exams and costs. Eligible costs include the cost  
20 of the examination, proctor fees, and administrative fees. Eligible  
21 examinations include:

22 (i) Advanced placement (AP);

23 (ii) International baccalaureate (IB);

24 (iii) College-level examination program (CLEP); and

25 (iv) Career technical education examinations that lead to an in-  
26 dustry-recognized certificate, license, or degree.

27 (d) CTE workforce training courses, such as federally registered ap-  
28 prenticeships, the distribution of which may not exceed five hundred  
29 dollars (\$500) per course and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per year.  
30 The state department of education shall collaborate with the division  
31 of career technical education to maintain a list of eligible training  
32 courses and costs. Eligible training courses must:

33 (i) Be provided by an Idaho public technical college;

34 (ii) Lead to an industry-recognized certificate, license, or de-  
35 gree;

36 (iii) Be required training for occupations deemed regionally in  
37 demand;

38 (iv) Be courses that are not otherwise available at the student's  
39 high school; and

40 (v) Allow high school-aged students to participate.

41 (e) College entrance examinations and preliminary college entrance  
42 examinations. The state department of education shall maintain a list  
43 of eligible examinations and costs, provided that a student may not use  
44 funds provided under this section to take the same examination more than  
45 once. Eligible costs include the cost of the examination, proctor fees,  
46 and administrative fees. Eligible examinations include the SAT, the  
47 PSAT, the ACT, and other similar examinations identified by the depart-  
48 ment.

49 (2) A student who has earned fifteen (15) postsecondary credits using  
50 the advanced opportunities program and who wishes to earn additional cred-

1 its must first identify his postsecondary goals. Advisors shall counsel any  
2 student who wishes to take dual credit courses that the student should ascer-  
3 tain for himself whether the particular postsecondary institution that he  
4 desires to attend will accept the transfer of coursework credits under this  
5 section.

6 (3) These moneys may be used to pay an amount not to exceed the price  
7 to the student of such courses and examinations pursuant to the limitations  
8 stated in this section. These moneys shall not supplant existing program  
9 funds. Payments made under this section shall be made from the moneys ap-  
10 propriated for the educational support program. No later than January 15,  
11 the state department of education shall annually report to the education  
12 committees of the senate and the house of representatives details regarding  
13 the number of students benefiting from assistance with the cost of overload  
14 courses, dual credit courses and examinations, the number of credits awarded  
15 and amounts paid pursuant to this section during the previous school year.

16 (4) The board of each public school may set forth criteria by which a  
17 student may challenge a course. If a student successfully meets the crite-  
18 ria set forth by the board of the public school, then the student shall be  
19 counted as having completed all required coursework for that course. The  
20 public school, with the exception of Idaho tribal schools, shall be funded  
21 for such students based upon either actual hours of attendance or the course  
22 that the student has successfully passed, whichever is more advantageous to  
23 the public school, up to the maximum of one (1) full-time student.

24 (5) Any student who successfully completes public school grades 1  
25 through 12 curriculum at least one (1) year early shall be eligible for an  
26 advanced opportunities scholarship. The scholarship may be used for tu-  
27 ition and fees at any Idaho public postsecondary educational institution.  
28 The amount of the scholarship shall equal thirty-five percent (35%) of the  
29 statewide average daily attendance-driven funding per enrolled pupil for  
30 each year of grades 1 through 12 curriculum avoided by the student's early  
31 graduation. Each public school shall receive an amount equal to each such  
32 awarded scholarship for each student that graduates early from that public  
33 school. Students must apply for the scholarship within two (2) years of  
34 graduating from a public school.

35 (6) The state department of education shall reimburse public schools  
36 or public postsecondary educational institutions, as applicable, for such  
37 costs, up to the stated limits, within one hundred twenty-five (125) days of  
38 receiving the necessary data upon which reimbursements may be paid. The sub-  
39 mission method and timelines of reimbursement data shall be determined by  
40 the state department of education. Payments will be made only for activity  
41 occurring and reported within each fiscal year.

42 (7) For public funding purposes, average daily attendance shall be  
43 counted as normal for students participating in dual credit courses pursuant  
44 to this section.

45 (8) If a student fails to earn credit or successfully complete a course  
46 for which the department has paid a reimbursement, the student must pay for  
47 and successfully earn credit or complete one (1) like course before the state  
48 department of education may pay any further reimbursements for the student.  
49 If a student performs inadequately on an examination for which the state de-  
50 partment of education has paid a reimbursement, the public school shall de-

1 termine whether the student must pay for and successfully pass such examina-  
2 tion to continue receiving state funding. Repeated and remedial courses or  
3 examinations are not eligible for funding through these programs.

4 (9) The state department of education shall reimburse community col-  
5 leges or counties, as applicable, for any out-of-district county tuition  
6 pursuant to section 33-2110A, Idaho Code. Such reimbursements shall be in an  
7 amount not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) per credit hour and only for dual  
8 credit courses taken pursuant to this section.

9 (10) Public schools shall establish timelines and requirements for par-  
10 ticipation in the program, including implementing procedures for the appro-  
11 priate transcription of credits, reporting of program participation and fi-  
12 nancial transaction requirements. Public schools shall make reasonable ef-  
13 forts to ensure that any student who considers participating in the program  
14 also considers the challenges and time necessary to succeed in the program,  
15 and schools shall make reasonable efforts to include guidance on how the stu-  
16 dent's participation in the program contributes to prospective college and  
17 career pathways. Such efforts by the district shall be performed prior to a  
18 student participating in the program and throughout the student's involve-  
19 ment in the program.

20 (11) Policies and procedures for participating in the program estab-  
21 lished by the public school must be such that students have an opportunity  
22 to participate in the program and meet district-established timelines and  
23 requirements for financial transactions, transcribing credits and state  
24 department of education reporting. Participation in this program requires  
25 parent and student agreement to program requirements and completion of the  
26 state department of education's participation form documenting the program  
27 requirements.

28 (12) Parents of participating students may enroll their child in any  
29 eligible course, with or without the permission of the public school in which  
30 the student is enrolled. Tribal school students must follow their schools'  
31 enrollment policies and procedures. Public school personnel shall assist  
32 parents in the process of enrolling students in such courses. Each partic-  
33 ipating student's high school transcript at the public school at which the  
34 student is enrolled shall include the credits earned and grades received by  
35 the student for any overload or dual credit courses taken pursuant to this  
36 section. For an eligible course to be transcribed as meeting the require-  
37 ments of a core subject as identified in administrative rule, the course must  
38 meet the approved content standards for the applicable subject and grade  
39 level.

40 (13) Participating public schools shall collaborate with Idaho public  
41 postsecondary educational institutions to assist students who seek to par-  
42 ticipate in dual credit courses or graduate from high school early by en-  
43 rolling in postsecondary courses. Participating school districts, charter  
44 schools and Idaho public postsecondary educational institutions shall re-  
45 port to the state board of education and the education committees of the sen-  
46 ate and the house of representatives any difficulties or obstacles they ex-  
47 perience in providing assistance to participating students.

48 ~~(14) If actual expenditures for the program pursuant to this section are~~  
49 ~~less than the appropriation for the year, excess funds shall be transferred~~

1 ~~to the in-demand careers fund established in section 72-1206, Idaho Code, to~~  
2 ~~further workforce training for in-demand careers.~~

3 ~~(15)~~ (14) The state board of education may promulgate rules to implement  
4 the provisions of this chapter.

5 SECTION 5. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
6 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
7 July 1, 2024.