

# HOUSE BILL No. 1445

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 21-12-15.

**Synopsis:** LIFE scholarships. Establishes the lifelong learning incentive for excellence (LIFE) scholarship program to provide scholarships to Indiana residents for postsecondary education. Provides for administration of the program by the commission for higher education. Establishes the LIFE scholarship fund consisting of: (1) appropriations made to the fund from other sources; and (2) grants, gifts, and donations intended for deposit in the fund. Sets forth the amount of a scholarship award, subject to the amount of money in the LIFE scholarship fund. Provides eligibility criteria for potential recipients.

**Effective:** July 1, 2015.

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## Klinker

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January 14, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.

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First Regular Session of the 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

# HOUSE BILL No. 1445



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 21-12-15 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2015]:  
4 **Chapter 15. Indiana Lifelong Learning Incentive for Excellence**  
5 **(LIFE) Scholarship**  
6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "academic year" means a period,**  
7 **typically nine (9) months, in which a full-time student is expected**  
8 **to complete the equivalent of at least two (2) semesters or three (3)**  
9 **quarters of academic work.**  
10 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "eligible high school" means a**  
11 **secondary school located in Indiana that is a:**  
12 **(1) public school; or**  
13 **(2) nonpublic school that voluntarily seeks and receives**  
14 **accreditation as authorized by IC 20-19-2-8.**  
15 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "eligible postsecondary**



1 **educational institution" means a school that meets the following**  
 2 **conditions:**

3 **(1) Operates in Indiana as:**

4 **(A) a state educational institution;**

5 **(B) a nonprofit private educational institution; or**

6 **(C) a for-profit private proprietary educational institution.**

7 **(2) Provides an organized program of postsecondary**  
 8 **education leading to:**

9 **(A) a technical certificate;**

10 **(B) a nursing diploma;**

11 **(C) an associate degree; or**

12 **(D) a baccalaureate degree.**

13 **(3) Is accredited by:**

14 **(A) a recognized national or regional accrediting agency;**

15 **(B) the Indiana commission for postsecondary proprietary**  
 16 **education; or**

17 **(C) the Indiana state board of nursing.**

18 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "freshman student" means a**  
 19 **student at a postsecondary educational institution who has enrolled**  
 20 **in or completed a cumulative total of less than:**

21 **(1) forty-six (46) quarter hours; or**

22 **(2) thirty-one (31) semester hours.**

23 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "full-time student" means a**  
 24 **student in matriculated status who is attending a postsecondary**  
 25 **educational institution and is enrolled for the equivalent of at least**  
 26 **twelve (12) quarter or semester hours.**

27 **Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "grade point average" means the**  
 28 **numbered grade average calculated using a 4.0 scale or the**  
 29 **equivalent.**

30 **Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "LIFE scholarship" means a**  
 31 **lifelong learning incentive for excellence scholarship awarded**  
 32 **under this chapter for postsecondary education.**

33 **Sec. 8. As used in this chapter, "matriculated status" means**  
 34 **being recognized as a student in a defined program of study**  
 35 **leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate at a postsecondary**  
 36 **educational institution.**

37 **Sec. 9. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the LIFE**  
 38 **scholarship program.**

39 **Sec. 10. As used in this chapter, "quarter hours" includes each**  
 40 **quarter hour in which a student is enrolled, whether remedial or**  
 41 **for credit toward a degree. However, the term does not include a**  
 42 **quarter hour attempted or completed before graduating from high**



1 school or earning a general educational development (GED)  
2 diploma.

3 Sec. 11. As used in this chapter, "semester hours" includes each  
4 semester hour in which a student is enrolled, whether remedial or  
5 for credit toward a degree. However, the term does not include a  
6 semester hour attempted before graduating from high school or  
7 earning a general educational development (GED) diploma.

8 Sec. 12. As used in this chapter, "sophomore student" means a  
9 student at a postsecondary educational institution who has enrolled  
10 in or completed:

11 (1) at least forty-six (46) quarter hours but less than  
12 ninety-one (91) quarter hours; or

13 (2) at least thirty-one (31) semester hours but less than  
14 sixty-one (61) semester hours.

15 Sec. 13. As used in this chapter, "Title IV" refers to Title IV of  
16 the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

17 Sec. 14. The Indiana lifelong learning incentive for excellence  
18 (LIFE) scholarship program is established.

19 Sec. 15. The commission shall do the following:

20 (1) Administer the program.

21 (2) Subject to this chapter, determine eligibility, residency  
22 requirements, policy issues, and definitions for the program.

23 (3) Identify individuals who are eligible to participate in the  
24 program.

25 (4) Pay the amount of a scholarship recipient's scholarship  
26 directly to the eligible postsecondary educational institution  
27 that the scholarship recipient attends.

28 (5) Subject to:

29 (A) the amount of money available in the LIFE scholarship  
30 fund; and

31 (B) the requirements of this chapter;

32 determine the scholarship amount for each scholarship  
33 recipient.

34 (6) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to administer the program.

35 Sec. 16. (a) The LIFE scholarship fund is established to provide  
36 scholarships for the program. The fund consists of:

37 (1) appropriations to the fund from other sources; and

38 (2) grants, gifts, and donations intended for deposit in the  
39 fund.

40 (b) Expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from  
41 money in the fund.

42 (c) The commission shall administer the LIFE scholarship fund.



1           (d) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the LIFE  
2 scholarship fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of  
3 the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested.

4           (e) Money in the LIFE scholarship fund at the end of a state  
5 fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund.

6           Sec. 17. Subject to the amount of money available in the LIFE  
7 scholarship fund for purposes of this chapter, the commission shall  
8 provide a LIFE scholarship to eligible students in the following  
9 amounts:

10           (1) For a student who attends an eligible postsecondary  
11 educational institution that is a state educational institution,  
12 an amount that equals the sum of the following for any  
13 academic year:

14                   (A) The student's actual tuition.

15                   (B) The student's actual approved mandatory fees that are  
16 charged by the student's postsecondary educational  
17 institution to every student enrolled in the institution,  
18 regardless of a student's program of study.

19           (2) For a student who attends an eligible postsecondary  
20 educational institution that is a nonprofit private institution,  
21 an amount that equals the sum of the following for any  
22 academic year:

23                   (A) An amount equal to the average in-state tuition at the  
24 four (4) postsecondary state educational institutions having  
25 the highest in-state tuition.

26                   (B) An amount equal to the average mandatory fees that  
27 are charged at the state educational institutions described  
28 in clause (A) to every student enrolled in the institutions,  
29 regardless of a student's program of study.

30           (3) For a student who attends an eligible postsecondary  
31 educational institution that is a for-profit private  
32 postsecondary credit bearing proprietary institution, an  
33 amount that equals the sum of the following for any academic  
34 year:

35                   (A) An amount equal to the tuition at Ivy Tech Community  
36 College.

37                   (B) An amount equal to the average mandatory fees that  
38 are charged at Ivy Tech Community College to every  
39 student enrolled in Ivy Tech Community College,  
40 regardless of a student's program of study.

41           Sec. 18. In addition to the other requirements of this chapter, a  
42 student must meet the following requirements to be eligible to



1 receive a LIFE scholarship under this chapter:

2 (1) Be a United States citizen or a permanent resident alien of  
3 the United States who meets the definition of an eligible  
4 noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements.

5 (2) Be a legal resident of Indiana as determined by the  
6 commission.

7 (3) Comply with United States Selective Service System  
8 requirements for registration, if such requirements apply to  
9 the student.

10 (4) Not be in default on a federal Title IV educational loan or  
11 a state of Indiana educational loan. However, a student who  
12 is otherwise eligible and who fully repays a defaulted loan is  
13 eligible to obtain a LIFE scholarship for future academic  
14 terms, but not retroactively.

15 (5) Not owe a refund on a federal Title IV student financial  
16 aid program or an Indiana student financial aid program.  
17 However, a student who is otherwise eligible and who fully  
18 repays an owed refund is eligible to obtain a LIFE scholarship  
19 for future academic terms, but not retroactively.

20 (6) Not be convicted of a felony offense involving marijuana  
21 or a controlled substance. Ineligibility under this subdivision  
22 extends from the date of conviction to the completion of the  
23 next academic term following the date of conviction.

24 (7) Not be incarcerated.

25 **Sec. 19. To be eligible for a LIFE scholarship for the freshman**  
26 **year, an entering freshman student seeking an associate degree or**  
27 **baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary educational**  
28 **institution must meet the following requirements:**

29 (1) Meet achievement standards:

30 (A) by graduating from an eligible high school;

31 (B) by receiving an Indiana general educational  
32 development (GED) diploma;

33 (C) by:

34 (i) earning a cumulative grade point average of at least  
35 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary educational institution at  
36 the end of the quarter or semester in which the student  
37 has enrolled in and has completed a cumulative total of  
38 not more than forty-five (45) quarter hours or thirty (30)  
39 semester hours; and

40 (ii) completing a nonaccredited nonpublic instruction  
41 program that a parent establishes, organizes, and directs  
42 for the education of the parent's child; or



1 (D) by:

2 (i) graduating from a high school that is not an eligible  
3 high school; and

4 (ii) earning a cumulative grade point average of at least  
5 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary educational institution at  
6 the end of the quarter or semester in which the student  
7 has enrolled in and has completed a cumulative total of  
8 not more than forty-five (45) quarter hours or thirty (30)  
9 semester hours.

10 However, a student described in clause (C) or (D) is eligible to  
11 receive only a retroactive LIFE scholarship for the student's  
12 freshman year, to be paid to the student at the end of the  
13 student's freshman year.

14 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled,  
15 and classified as an undergraduate student in matriculated  
16 status.

17 **Sec. 20.** To be eligible for a LIFE scholarship for the sophomore  
18 year, a sophomore student seeking an associate degree or  
19 baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary educational  
20 institution must do the following:

21 (1) Meet achievement standards by satisfying the following  
22 criteria:

23 (A) Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0  
24 or the equivalent at a postsecondary educational institution  
25 at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student  
26 has enrolled in and has completed a cumulative total of not  
27 more than forty-five (45) quarter hours or thirty (30)  
28 semester hours.

29 (B) Maintain satisfactory academic progress in a course of  
30 study in accordance with the standards and practices used  
31 for federal Title IV programs by the postsecondary  
32 educational institution in which the student is enrolled.

33 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled,  
34 and classified as an undergraduate student in matriculated  
35 status or, in the case of an otherwise eligible student who is  
36 classified as a professional level student rather than an  
37 undergraduate student, being accepted into the professional  
38 level program of study before receiving a baccalaureate  
39 degree.

40 **Sec. 21.** A student is not required to enroll in a minimum  
41 number of hours at a postsecondary educational institution in  
42 order to otherwise qualify for a LIFE scholarship under this



1 **chapter. However, the commission may base the amount of a**  
2 **student's LIFE scholarship on the number of credit hours in which**  
3 **the student is enrolled.**

4 **Sec. 22. A student who fails to achieve a cumulative grade point**  
5 **average of at least 3.0 or the equivalent at the end of the quarter or**  
6 **semester in which the student has enrolled in or completed a**  
7 **cumulative total of not more than forty-five (45) quarter hours or**  
8 **thirty (30) semester hours but who achieves a cumulative grade**  
9 **point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the quarter or semester**  
10 **in which the student has enrolled in or completed a cumulative**  
11 **total of not more than ninety (90) quarter hours or sixty (60)**  
12 **semester hours and who is otherwise eligible may qualify for a**  
13 **LIFE scholarship under this chapter.**

14 **Sec. 23. A student may receive a LIFE scholarship under this**  
15 **chapter until the student completes at any postsecondary**  
16 **educational institution a cumulative total of ninety-one (91)**  
17 **quarter hours or sixty-one (61) semester hours.**

