

SENATE BILL No. 287

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 21-12-18.

Synopsis: Scholarship in health care for minority students. Establishes the scholarship for minority students pursuing health care careers (scholarship) and the minority students pursuing health care careers fund (fund). Provides that the commission for higher education (commission) administers the scholarship program and the fund. Prescribes qualifications necessary to: (1) receive an initial scholarship; and (2) qualify for renewal of the scholarship. Provides that the amount of the scholarship awarded for an academic year is the lesser of: (1) the balance of the scholarship recipient's total cost of attendance for the academic year after the application of any other financial assistance for which the scholarship recipient qualifies; or (2) \$4,000. Requires a scholarship recipient to enter into a written agreement with the commission to: (1) use the scholarship solely to fund a course of study resulting in a degree or certificate that enables the individual to practice as a health care professional in Indiana; (2) apply for a position as health care professional in Indiana following the individual's licensure or certification as a health care professional; and (3) if hired, practice as a health care professional in Indiana for at least three years. Requires a scholarship recipient to repay the scholarship if the scholarship recipient fails to: (1) complete the scholarship recipient's program of study; or (2) complete the terms of the scholarship recipient's agreement with the commission. Annually appropriates to the fund from the state general fund an amount sufficient to carry out the purposes of the scholarship program. Requires the commission to report to the general assembly not later than December 1, 2024, regarding the effect of the scholarship program.

Effective: July 1, 2020.

Breaux

January 9, 2020, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.



Second Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2020)

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 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 287

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education and to make an appropriation.

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 21-12-18 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2020]:
4 **Chapter 18. Scholarship for Minority Students Pursuing Health**
5 **Care Careers**
6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the minority**
7 **students pursuing health care careers fund established by section**
8 **5 of this chapter.**
9 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "health care professional"**
10 **includes the following:**
11 (1) **A:**
12 (A) **qualified medication aide; or**
13 (B) **certified nurse aide;**
14 **certified under IC 16-28-1-11.**
15 (2) **An advanced emergency medical technician (as defined in**
16 **IC 16-18-2-6.5).**
17 (3) **An emergency medical responder (as defined in**



- 1 **IC 16-18-2-109.8).**
 2 **(4) A paramedic (as defined in IC 16-18-2-266).**
 3 **(5) A provider of hospice services (as defined in**
 4 **IC 16-25-1.1-6).**
 5 **(6) A provider of home health services (as defined in**
 6 **IC 16-27-1-5).**
 7 **(7) An anesthesiologist assistant licensed under IC 25-3.7.**
 8 **(8) A chiropractor licensed under IC 25-10.**
 9 **(9) A dental hygienist licensed under IC 25-13.**
 10 **(10) A dentist licensed under IC 25-14.**
 11 **(11) A physician licensed under IC 25-22.5.**
 12 **(12) A nurse licensed under IC 25-23.**
 13 **(13) An:**
 14 **(A) occupational therapist licensed; or**
 15 **(B) occupational therapy assistant licensed;**
 16 **under IC 25-23.5.**
 17 **(14) An optometrist licensed under IC 25-24.**
 18 **(15) A pharmacist licensed under IC 25-26.**
 19 **(16) A:**
 20 **(A) physical therapist licensed; or**
 21 **(B) physical therapy assistant certified;**
 22 **under IC 25-27.**
 23 **(17) A physician assistant licensed under IC 25-27.5.**
 24 **(18) A podiatrist licensed under IC 25-29.**
 25 **(19) A:**
 26 **(A) speech-language pathologist; or**
 27 **(B) audiologist;**
 28 **licensed under IC 25-35.6.**
 29 **(20) A:**
 30 **(A) speech-language pathology aide;**
 31 **(B) speech-language pathology associate; or**
 32 **(C) speech-language pathology assistant;**
 33 **registered under IC 25-35.6.**
 34 **(21) Direct care staff (as defined by 460 IAC 6-3-18).**
 35 **(22) A patient care technician.**
 36 **(23) A chronic disease technician, including a dialysis**
 37 **technician.**
 38 **(24) Any other health care profession specified by rule**
 39 **adopted by the commission under this chapter.**
 40 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "minority" has the meaning set**
 41 **forth in IC 21-13-1-6.**
 42 **Sec. 4. (a) The scholarship for minority students pursuing health**



1 care careers is established.

2 (b) The commission shall administer the scholarship program
3 under this chapter, including:

4 (1) receiving and evaluating applications received under
5 section 6 of this chapter; and

6 (2) awarding scholarships from the fund to applicants who
7 meet the qualifications established under this chapter.

8 Sec. 5. (a) The minority students pursuing health care careers
9 fund is established for the purpose of providing scholarships under
10 this chapter.

11 (b) The fund consists of the following:

12 (1) Appropriations made by the general assembly.

13 (2) Gifts, grants, devises, or bequests made to the commission
14 to achieve the purposes of the fund.

15 (c) The commission shall administer the fund.

16 (d) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from
17 money in the fund.

18 (e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not
19 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same
20 manner as other public funds may be invested. Interest that
21 accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

22 (f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not
23 revert to the state general fund but remains available to be used for
24 the purposes of this chapter.

25 Sec. 6. An individual must apply for a scholarship, or renewal
26 of a scholarship, under this chapter in the form and manner
27 prescribed by the commission.

28 Sec. 7. An individual qualifies for an initial scholarship under
29 this chapter if the individual:

30 (1) is a minority student;

31 (2) is admitted to an approved postsecondary educational
32 institution as a full-time student;

33 (3) either:

34 (A) intends to pursue, in the case of an individual who has
35 been accepted to, but is not yet attending, an approved
36 postsecondary educational institution; or

37 (B) is pursuing, in the case of an individual who is
38 attending an approved postsecondary educational
39 institution;

40 a course of study resulting in a degree or certificate that
41 enables the individual to practice as a health care professional
42 in Indiana;



1 (4) agrees, in a written agreement entered into with the
2 commission:

3 (A) to use a scholarship awarded under this chapter solely
4 to pay:

5 (i) tuition and other fees;

6 (ii) the cost of room and board; or

7 (iii) the cost of textbooks and equipment;

8 required for a course of study described in subdivision (3);

9 (B) to apply for a position as health care professional in
10 Indiana not later than one (1) year after the individual's
11 licensure or certification as a health care professional; and

12 (C) if hired, to practice as a health care professional in
13 Indiana for at least three (3) years; and

14 (5) meets any other minimum criteria established by the
15 commission in rules adopted under section 12 of this chapter.

16 **Sec. 8.** The term of a scholarship awarded under this chapter is
17 one (1) academic year, or the equivalent of one (1) academic year
18 as established by the approved postsecondary educational
19 institution to which the scholarship recipient is admitted.

20 **Sec. 9. (a)** Except as provided by subsection (b), an individual
21 who qualifies for an initial scholarship under section 7 of this
22 chapter qualifies for renewal of the scholarship if the individual:

23 (1) continues to meet the criteria under section 7 of this
24 chapter;

25 (2) maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0
26 on a 4.0 grading scale, or an equivalent grade point average
27 as established by the approved postsecondary educational
28 institution attended by the individual;

29 (3) enrolls in and completes at least fifteen (15) credit hours
30 each semester, or an equivalent course load as established by
31 the approved postsecondary educational institution attended
32 by the individual; and

33 (4) meets any other requirements established in rules adopted
34 under section 12 of this chapter.

35 (b) The commission may grant a waiver from the requirements
36 of subsection (a) to an applicant for renewal if:

37 (1) the applicant submits a petition to the commission, in a
38 manner prescribed by the commission, asserting; and

39 (2) the commission determines, based on the petition;

40 that extenuating circumstances prevented the applicant from
41 meeting the requirements of subsection (a).

42 (c) If the commission grants a waiver to an applicant for



1 renewal under subsection (b), the commission may:

- 2 (1) place the applicant on probationary status; and
 3 (2) establish additional requirements for the applicant.

4 (d) A scholarship under this chapter may be renewed for not
 5 more than four (4) undergraduate academic years, or the
 6 equivalent of four (4) academic years as established by the
 7 approved postsecondary educational institution attended by the
 8 scholarship recipient. However, an individual may not renew a
 9 scholarship under this chapter for an academic year that ends later
 10 than six (6) years after the date the individual is awarded the initial
 11 scholarship under this chapter.

12 Sec. 10. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the amount of
 13 a scholarship under this chapter is equal to the lesser of the
 14 following:

- 15 (1) The balance of the scholarship recipient's total cost of
 16 attendance for the academic year after the application of any
 17 other financial assistance for which the scholarship recipient
 18 qualifies.
 19 (2) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000).

20 (b) If the total amount of all scholarships awarded under this
 21 chapter exceeds the amount available for distribution from the
 22 fund in a state fiscal year, the amount distributed to each applicant
 23 for a scholarship, or renewal of a scholarship, under this chapter
 24 shall be reduced proportionately:

- 25 (1) based on the financial need of each applicant; and
 26 (2) such that the total reduction equals the amount of the
 27 excess.

28 Sec. 11. (a) An individual who is awarded a scholarship under
 29 this chapter shall agree in writing to repay the amount received by
 30 the individual under this chapter if the individual does not
 31 complete:

- 32 (1) a program of study described in section 7(3) of this
 33 chapter; or
 34 (2) the conditions to which the individual agrees under section
 35 7(4) of this chapter.

36 (b) The commission may waive repayment of all or part of a
 37 scholarship under subsection (a) if:

- 38 (1) the scholarship recipient submits a petition to the
 39 commission, in a manner prescribed by the commission,
 40 asserting; and
 41 (2) the commission determines, based on the petition;

42 that extenuating circumstances prevented the scholarship recipient



1 from meeting the requirements of subsection (a).

2 Sec. 12. The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2
3 necessary to administer this chapter.

4 Sec. 13. There is annually appropriated to the fund from the
5 state general fund an amount sufficient to carry out the purposes
6 of this chapter.

7 Sec. 14. (a) Not later than December 1, 2024, the commission
8 shall issue a report to the general assembly, in an electronic format
9 under IC 5-14-6, describing the effect of the scholarship program
10 under this chapter. The commission shall include in the report the
11 following information for the period beginning July 1, 2020, and
12 ending July 1, 2024:

- 13 (1) The number of scholarships granted under this chapter.
14 (2) The number of scholarship recipients who graduated with
15 a degree or certificate that enables the individual to practice
16 as a health care professional in Indiana.
17 (3) The number of:
18 (A) scholarship recipients who found employment as health
19 care professionals; and
20 (B) scholarship recipients who were employed as health
21 care professionals as of July 1, 2024.
22 (4) The number of scholarship recipients who:
23 (A) were employed in two (2) or more health care
24 professional positions; and
25 (B) as of July 1, 2024, were employed in a health care
26 professional position:
27 (i) requiring a higher level of skill; or
28 (ii) involving greater professional responsibility;
29 than the immediately preceding health care professional
30 position in which the scholarship recipient was employed.
31 (5) The number of scholarship recipients who fulfilled the
32 scholarship recipient's agreement under section 7(4) of this
33 chapter.
34 (6) The number of:
35 (A) scholarship recipients who did not fulfill the
36 scholarship recipient's agreement under section 7(4) of this
37 chapter; and
38 (B) scholarship recipients who repaid all or part of the
39 scholarship under section 11 of this chapter.
40 (b) This section expires December 31, 2024.

