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H.86

Introduced by Representatives Anthony of Barre City and Masland of
Thetford

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; miscellaneous changes to education law; secondary
education; VSAC; portability

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation award grants and scholarships
solely for use at Vermont postsecondary schools or at educational institutions
in states that have executed a reciprocity agreement with Vermont.

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education law

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2822 is amended to read:

§ 2822. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(10) “Operate” means to establish, keep, or maintain any facility or
location from or through which education or training is offered or given or

1 educational or training degrees are offered or granted. The term includes
2 contracting with any person to perform any such act.

3 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 3 is amended to read:

4 Subchapter 3. Incentive Grants

5 § 2841. ESTABLISHMENT; RULES

6 (a) A need-based grant program is hereby established to aid students who
7 need financial assistance and:

8 (1) are pursuing undergraduate studies and ~~give~~ giving promise of
9 completing satisfactorily a degree program at an approved postsecondary
10 education institution that operates primarily or exclusively in Vermont or an
11 institution in a state that has executed a reciprocity agreement with
12 Vermont; or who

13 (2) have been accepted for admission to an approved postsecondary
14 education institution that operates primarily or exclusively in Vermont or an
15 institution in a state that has executed a reciprocity agreement with Vermont
16 for undergraduate studies.

17 (b) The Board may establish rules, regulations, and standards for the
18 awards under this subchapter.

19 § 2842. ELIGIBILITY

20 (a)(1) To qualify for an incentive grant for the first year of undergraduate
21 study, a student must:

1 (A) be in attendance at an approved postsecondary education
2 institution that operates primarily or exclusively in Vermont or an institution in
3 a state that has executed a reciprocity agreement with Vermont; or

4 (B) be accepted for admission and be enrolled as a full-time or
5 part-time student at such an institution.

6 (2) For each year following the first year of undergraduate study, the
7 student must have been certified by the institution attended to be in good
8 standing and to give promise of satisfactory completion of a course of study
9 leading to a degree or diploma.

10 * * *

11 § 2844. AMOUNT RECEIVED; PRORATION

12 (a) Each undergraduate student who qualifies for an incentive grant shall
13 apply on forms provided by the Corporation. The Corporation may consider
14 the student for an incentive grant if the student meets the need-based eligibility
15 standards established by the Board. These standards shall give due
16 consideration to all relevant factors affecting the student's need, including the
17 adjusted gross income and other sources of income of the student's parents; the
18 adjusted gross income and other sources of income of a nondependent student;
19 the assets of parents and students; the number of a parent's or nondependent
20 student's children who are students enrolled in approved postsecondary
21 education institutions at the same time; and any unusual circumstances that

1 affect the family financial strength. Incentive grants shall be awarded on a
2 rolling basis to eligible applicants based upon established need; and in total
3 amount shall not exceed the funds made available from legislative
4 appropriation or other sources. In no case shall a student's award be larger
5 than that needed to attend the ~~approved postsecondary education~~ institution of
6 the student's choice.

7 * * *

8 (c) Vermont resident students enrolled at the Medical College of the
9 University of Vermont or enrolled in a program in Vermont or in a state that
10 has executed a reciprocity agreement with Vermont leading to the degree of
11 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine shall be eligible to apply for an incentive grant
12 and shall be subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. In
13 addition, veterinary students shall be eligible for grants not to exceed twice the
14 amount of the average grant award made to full-time undergraduate students in
15 the previous year under subsection (a) of this section.

16 * * *

17 § 2846. ADVANCEMENT GRANTS

18 (a) The Corporation may establish an advancement grant program for
19 residents pursuing nondegree education and training opportunities in Vermont
20 or in a state that has executed a reciprocity agreement with Vermont who do

1 not meet the definition of student in subdivision 2822(3) of this title; and who
2 may not meet the requirements of this subchapter.

3 (b) Advancement grants may be used at institutions that are not approved
4 postsecondary education institutions, provided these institutions operate
5 primarily or exclusively in Vermont or operate in a state that has executed a
6 reciprocity agreement with Vermont.

7 * * *

8 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 4 is amended to read:

9 Subchapter 4. Honor Scholarships

10 § 2851. ESTABLISHMENT

11 Vermont Honor Scholarships are hereby established for secondary school
12 seniors who plan to attend an approved postsecondary education institution
13 that operates primarily or exclusively in Vermont or an institution in a state
14 that has executed a reciprocity agreement with Vermont.

15 * * *

16 § 2854. AMOUNT; NUMBER; DISBURSEMENT

17 (a) Each Vermont Honor Scholarship shall be an equal amount and ~~no~~ not
18 less than \$1,000.00 as determined by the Board.

19 * * *

20 (c) The Scholarship shall be disbursed to the approved postsecondary
21 education institution that operates primarily or exclusively in Vermont or to an

1 institution in a state that has executed a reciprocity agreement with Vermont at
2 which the recipient enrolls.

3 Sec. 4. TRANSITION

4 Notwithstanding Secs. 2 and 3 of this act:

5 (1) A student may qualify for an incentive grant under 16 V.S.A.
6 chapter 87, subchapter 3 if, on or before July 1, 2021, the student is currently
7 enrolled at and attending an approved postsecondary education institution
8 outside Vermont or has accepted an offer of admission as a full-time or
9 part-time student outside Vermont, even though that state has not executed a
10 reciprocity agreement with Vermont, provided that the student meets all other
11 requirements in 16 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 3.

12 (2) A resident may qualify for a nondegree grant under 16 V.S.A.
13 § 2846 in order to pursue a nondegree education and training opportunity
14 outside Vermont if the individual began pursuing that opportunity on or before
15 July 1, 2021, even though that state has not executed a reciprocity agreement
16 with Vermont, provided that the resident meets all other requirements in
17 16 V.S.A. § 2846.

18 (3) A student may be awarded a Vermont Honor Scholarship under
19 16 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 4 if, on or before July 1, 2021, the individual
20 has enrolled in an approved postsecondary education institution in a state that

1 has not executed a reciprocity agreement with Vermont, provided that the
2 student meets all other requirements in 16 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 4.

3 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.