

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
  
16  
17

H.819

Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Anthony of Barre City,  
and Beck of St. Johnsbury

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; postsecondary education; Vermont Student Assistance  
Corporation; scholarships and grants

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require grants  
and scholarships awarded by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation  
(VSAC) to be used at the University of Vermont, Vermont State Colleges, or  
Vermont independent colleges. It also proposes to require VSAC to issue a  
written report with information on the amount of funds awarded over the last  
five fiscal years in grants and scholarships and used at schools located outside  
Vermont, with the General Assembly considering an appropriation in the  
average annual amount of such funds to the Vermont State Colleges.

An act relating to the portability of Vermont Student Assistance  
Corporation grants and scholarships

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

2 \* \* \* Incentive Grants \* \* \*

3 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2841 is amended to read:

4 § 2841. ESTABLISHMENT; RULES

5 A need-based grant program is hereby established to aid students who need  
6 financial assistance and are pursuing undergraduate studies and give promise  
7 of completing satisfactorily a degree program or who have been accepted for  
8 admission ~~to an approved postsecondary education institution~~ for  
9 undergraduate studies to the Vermont State Colleges, the University of  
10 Vermont, or a Vermont independent college. The Board may establish rules,  
11 regulations, and standards for the awards under this subchapter.

12 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 2842 is amended to read:

13 § 2842. ELIGIBILITY

14 (a) To qualify for an incentive grant for the first year of undergraduate  
15 study, a student must be in attendance at ~~an approved postsecondary education~~  
16 ~~institution~~ the Vermont State Colleges, the University of Vermont, or a  
17 Vermont independent college or be accepted for admission and be enrolled as a  
18 full-time or part-time student at such an institution. For each year following  
19 the first year of undergraduate study, the student must have been certified by  
20 the institution attended to be in good standing and to give promise of  
21 satisfactory completion of a course of study leading to a degree or diploma.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

\* \* \*

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 2844 is amended to read:

§ 2844. AMOUNT RECEIVED; PRORATION

(a) Each undergraduate student who qualifies for an incentive grant shall apply on forms provided by the Corporation. The Corporation may consider the student for an incentive grant if the student meets the need-based eligibility standards established by the Board. These standards shall give due consideration to all relevant factors affecting the student’s need, including the adjusted gross income and other sources of income of the student’s parents; the adjusted gross income and other sources of income of a nondependent student; the assets of parents and students; the number of a parent’s or nondependent student’s children who are students enrolled in approved postsecondary education institutions at the same time; and any unusual circumstances that affect the family financial strength. Incentive grants shall be awarded on a rolling basis to eligible applicants based upon established need, and in total amount shall not exceed the funds made available from legislative appropriation or other sources. In no case shall a student’s award be larger than that needed to attend the ~~approved postsecondary education~~ institution of the student’s choice.

(b) The Corporation may prorate incentive grants on the basis of semesters, other recognized portions of a school year, or course load.

1 (c) Vermont resident students enrolled at the Medical College of the  
2 University of Vermont or enrolled in a program located in Vermont leading to  
3 the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine shall be eligible to apply for an  
4 incentive grant and shall be subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this  
5 section. In addition, veterinary students shall be eligible for grants not to  
6 exceed twice the amount of the average grant award made to full-time  
7 undergraduate students in the previous year under subsection (a) of this  
8 section.

9 \* \* \* Advancement Grants \* \* \*

10 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 2846 is amended to read:

11 § 2846. ADVANCEMENT GRANTS

12 (a) The Corporation may establish an advancement grant program for  
13 residents pursuing nondegree education and training opportunities who do not  
14 meet the definition of student in subdivision 2822(3) of this title, and who may  
15 not meet the requirements of this subchapter.

16 (b) Advancement grants may be used at institutions that are not approved  
17 postsecondary education institutions, provided the institution is located in  
18 Vermont.

19 \* \* \*

1   \* \* \* Honor Scholarships \* \* \*

2         Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 2851 is amended to read:

3         § 2851. ESTABLISHMENT

4                 Vermont Honor Scholarships are hereby established for secondary school  
5         seniors who plan to attend ~~an approved postsecondary education institution~~ the  
6         Vermont State Colleges, the University of Vermont, or a Vermont independent  
7         college.

8         Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 2854 is amended to read:

9         § 2854. AMOUNT; NUMBER; DISBURSEMENT

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

12                (b) Each secondary school, or a border school serving Vermont secondary  
13         school students, may nominate a senior for a Vermont Honor Scholarship.

14                (c) The Scholarship shall be disbursed to the ~~approved postsecondary~~  
15         education institution at which the recipient enrolls.

16   \* \* \* Portability Savings \* \* \*

17         Sec. 7. PORTABILITY SAVINGS; VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

18                (a) On or before September 1, 2024, the Vermont Student Assistance  
19         Corporation shall submit a written report to the General Assembly with the  
20         following information for fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024:

1           (1) the number of incentive grants used at postsecondary education  
2           institutions located outside of Vermont as well as the total number of funds  
3           awarded pursuant to such grants;

4           (2) the number of advancement grants used at postsecondary education  
5           institutions located outside of Vermont as well as the total number of funds  
6           awarded pursuant to such grants; and

7           (3) the number of Honor Scholarships used at postsecondary education  
8           institutions located outside of Vermont as well as the total number of funds  
9           awarded pursuant to such scholarships.

10          (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to use the data and information  
11          from the report required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to consider  
12          awarding the annual average amount of funds awarded as incentive grants,  
13          advancement grants, and Honor Scholarships and used in postsecondary  
14          education institutions located outside Vermont to the Vermont State Colleges.

15   \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

16          Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

17           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.