



To: Senator Brian Campion, Chair, Senate Committee on Education
From: Thomas A. Little, Esq., VSAC General Counsel *Justin*
Date: May 3, 2024
Re: Comments on VSAC-related sections of House-passed Version of S. 191

VSAC supports the three changes the House made to the VSAC sections of S. 191.

Incentive Grant

The Incentive Grant is VSAC's grant for students attending a degree-granting institution. Act 166 (2022, S. 283) provided access to the Incentive Grant to Community College of Vermont immigrant students meeting certain federal immigration status requirements spelled out in the CCV statutes at 16 VSA sec. 2185(c). This was a trial program with a sunset. Section 2 of the Senate-passed S. 191 extended the sunset to July 1, 2027. The House-passed bill replaced S. 191's cross-reference to sec. 2185(c) with the full text of sec. 2185(c). The House made no other changes to section 2 of S. 191.

Advancement Grant

The Advancement Grant is VSAC's non-degree grant. Act 166 did not address the Advancement Grant. As passed by the Senate, section 1 of S. 191 had an Advancement Grant provision. This provision also used a cross-reference to section 2185(c). The House again replaced the cross-reference with the full text of section 2185(c). The House made no other changes to section 1.

New Section 2828

The House added section 3 to the bill, which would create a new section 2828 in the VSAC statutes providing that residents otherwise eligible for a State-funded financial aid program administered by VSAC will not be deemed ineligible solely on the basis of their immigration status under federal law. VSAC Supports this change. The House added three other subsections to proposed section 2828 and VSAC supports those.

I will be attending the Committee's meeting this afternoon to address any questions or concerns.