

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL  
No. 2351 Session of  
2000

INTRODUCED BY FAIRCHILD AND FLICK, MARCH 15, 2000

SENATOR RHOADES, EDUCATION, IN SENATE, RE-REPORTED AS AMENDED,  
JUNE 12, 2000

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 23, 1999 (P.L.159, No.22), entitled "An  
2 act providing for scholarships for persons entering into the  
3 field of science and technology," further providing for  
4 ~~program eligibility; and authorizing an extension of~~ <—  
5 ~~eligibility for persons pursuing postgraduate degrees.~~  
6 DEFINITIONS, FOR THE NEW ECONOMY TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP <—  
7 PROGRAM, FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL SCHOLARSHIPS, FOR  
8 ADMINISTRATION AND FOR REPORTING.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 ~~Section 1. Section 4(c) of the act of June 23, 1999~~ <—  
12 ~~(P.L.159, No.22), known as the New Economy Technology~~  
13 ~~Scholarship Act, is amended and the section is amended by adding~~  
14 ~~a subsection to read:~~

15 ~~Section 4. New Economy Technology Scholarship Program.~~

16 \* \* \*

17 SECTION 1. THE DEFINITION OF "APPROVED COURSE OF STUDY" IN <—  
18 SECTION 3 OF THE ACT OF JUNE 23, 1999 (P.L.159, NO.22), KNOWN AS  
19 THE NEW ECONOMY TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP ACT, IS AMENDED TO READ:  
20 SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

1 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ACT SHALL  
2 HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
3 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

4 \* \* \*

5 "APPROVED COURSE OF STUDY." A PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM OFFERED  
6 BY A POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT PROVIDES  
7 INSTRUCTION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RELATED FIELDS AND HAS  
8 BEEN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN CONSULTATION  
9 WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA [HUMAN RESOURCES] WORKFORCE INVESTMENT  
10 [COUNCIL] BOARD.

11 \* \* \*

12 SECTION 2. SECTIONS 4, 5, 6, 8 AND 9 OF THE ACT ARE AMENDED  
13 TO READ:

14 SECTION 4. NEW ECONOMY TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

15 (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.--THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED  
16 THE NEW ECONOMY TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WITHIN THE  
17 AGENCY, TO CONSIST OF THE SCITECH SCHOLARSHIP AND THE [GI BILL  
18 FOR THE NEW ECONOMY] TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP.

19 (B) ISSUANCE OF GRANTS.--THE AGENCY MAY PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP  
20 GRANTS TO AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT WHO IS A RESIDENT OF THIS  
21 COMMONWEALTH UPON [CONFIRMATION] CERTIFICATION FROM AN APPROVED  
22 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN AN  
23 APPROVED COURSE OF STUDY. SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS SHALL ONLY BE FOR  
24 THE AMOUNT SET FORTH IN SECTIONS 5(A) AND 6(A) [AND SHALL ONLY  
25 BE USED FOR TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES].

26 (C) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA  
27 [HUMAN RESOURCES] WORKFORCE INVESTMENT [COUNCIL] BOARD, SHALL  
28 ESTABLISH A LIST OF APPROVED COURSES OF STUDY FOR THE PROGRAM.

29 (D) OTHER FUNDING.--PRIOR TO MAKING A GRANT UNDER THIS ACT,  
30 THE AGENCY SHALL FIRST APPLY FEDERAL PELL GRANT AND STATE GRANTS

1 AVAILABLE TO [TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES] EDUCATIONAL COSTS, AS  
2 DETERMINED BY THE AGENCY, RELATED TO AN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM  
3 PRIOR TO DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP GRANT.

4 (e) Eligibility.--To receive a scholarship grant under this  
5 section, a student [shall] MUST meet all of the following <—  
6 requirements:

7 (1) Graduation from [a] high school [in this <—  
8 Commonwealth,] or [earned] EARNING A general educational <—  
9 development (GED) diploma or the equivalent thereof.

10 (2) Maintenance of domicile in Pennsylvania during the  
11 term of the scholarship grants.

12 (3) Compliance with any conditions placed on the  
13 scholarship grant by the agency or by the department in  
14 consultation with the Pennsylvania [Human Resources] <—  
15 WORKFORCE Investment [Council] BOARD. <—

16 (4) Maintenance of a CUMULATIVE grade point average of <—  
17 3.0 or higher, on a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent[, <—  
18 beginning with the first semester of the freshman year and  
19 through the term of the scholarship or in the last year of  
20 high school if the student is applying under section 5 or 6]. <—  
21 ~~A weighted average shall be used in the calculation of grade~~ <—  
22 ~~point average for advanced placement and honors courses.~~

23 (5) [Enter] ENTERING into a written agreement with the <—  
24 agency to:

25 (i) Satisfy all degree, diploma or certificate  
26 requirements and other requirements under this act.

27 (ii) Commence employment in this Commonwealth within  
28 one year after completion of an approved [undergraduate] <—  
29 BACHELOR'S OR ASSOCIATE'S degree or certificate program <—  
30 for a period of one year for each academic year the

1 student received a scholarship grant under this act  
2 unless the agency determines that there are extenuating  
3 circumstances.

4 (iii) Reimburse the Commonwealth all amounts  
5 received under this act and interest thereon, as  
6 determined by the agency, if the student fails to comply  
7 with subparagraphs (i) and (ii).

8 \* \* \*

9 (F) APPLICATION.--A STUDENT SHALL APPLY TO THE AGENCY FOR A  
10 SCHOLARSHIP GRANT AS PRESCRIBED BY THE AGENCY, TO INCLUDE THE  
11 PROVISION OF ALL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY THE  
12 AGENCY. THE APPLICATION OF A STUDENT UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE SHALL  
13 INCLUDE THE SIGNATURE OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN. THE APPLICATION  
14 SHALL INCLUDE A VERIFIED STATEMENT OF GRADE POINT AVERAGE FROM  
15 THE APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AS REQUIRED IN THIS ACT.

16 (G) WORK REQUIREMENT.--THE WORK REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBSECTION  
17 (E)(5)(II) SHALL BEGIN AFTER THE RECEIPT OF A BACHELOR'S OR AN  
18 ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR [OTHER] ANOTHER APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATE  
19 FROM AN APPROVED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

20 (H) TERMINATION.--IF A STUDENT TERMINATES ENROLLMENT IN THE  
21 APPROVED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR OR  
22 PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF THE APPROVED COURSE OF STUDY, THE  
23 APPROVED EDUCATION INSTITUTION SHALL NOTIFY THE AGENCY IN  
24 WRITING AND SHALL RETURN ALL UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP  
25 GRANT. RETURNED AMOUNTS SHALL BE USED TO FUND OTHER SCHOLARSHIP  
26 GRANTS UNDER THIS ACT.

27 (I) TRANSFER.--A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS ACT IS ONLY  
28 TRANSFERRABLE TO ANOTHER APPROVED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IF  
29 APPROVED BY THE AGENCY.

30 (J) LIMITATION.--GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL BE

1 LIMITED TO FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THAT PURPOSE. FIRST PRIORITY  
2 FOR AWARDING GRANTS SHALL BE GIVEN TO RENEWAL APPLICANTS.  
3 THEREAFTER, GRANTS SHALL BE AWARDED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-  
4 SERVED BASIS.

5 (k) Exception.--The agency shall postpone the work  
6 requirement under subsection (g) for extenuating circumstances  
7 ~~related to~~ OR BECAUSE OF the student's enrollment ON A FULL-TIME <—  
8 BASIS in a graduate degree program within one year of the  
9 receipt of a bachelor's degree from an approved educational  
10 institution. The agency shall require documentation of the  
11 person's continual status as a full-time student, as defined by  
12 the agency. The work requirement under subsection (e)(5)(ii)  
13 shall begin within one year after termination of enrollment on a  
14 full-time basis in a graduate degree program.

15 SECTION 5. SCITECH SCHOLARSHIPS. <—

16 (A) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.--THE AGENCY SHALL AWARD A SCITECH  
17 SCHOLARSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000 PER ACADEMIC YEAR OR A  
18 LESSER AMOUNT FOLLOWING APPLICATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS  
19 UNDER SECTION 4(D) TO A STUDENT ENROLLED FULL TIME IN AN  
20 APPROVED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION PURSUING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE  
21 PROGRAM OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN AN APPROVED COURSE OF STUDY. THE  
22 STUDENT [SHALL] MUST TAKE AT LEAST 12 SEMESTER HOURS PER  
23 SEMESTER, OR ITS EQUIVALENT, IN AN APPROVED COURSE OF STUDY. THE  
24 GRANT SHALL BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL COSTS RELATED TO THE  
25 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM, AS DETERMINED BY THE AGENCY.

26 (B) TERM OF GRANT.--A GRANT SHALL BE AWARDED BEGINNING NO  
27 EARLIER THAN THE SECOND ACADEMIC YEAR OF ENROLLMENT IN AN  
28 APPROVED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN A BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM  
29 OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN AN APPROVED COURSE OF STUDY. THE GRANT  
30 SHALL BE FOR A MAXIMUM OF THREE ACADEMIC YEARS OR FOR UP TO FOUR

1 ACADEMIC YEARS IF THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN AN APPROVED COURSE  
2 OF STUDY THAT ACCORDING TO THE AGENCY REQUIRES FIVE ACADEMIC  
3 YEARS TO COMPLETE. IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR RENEWALS BEYOND THREE  
4 YEARS, THE STUDENT MUST BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS  
5 OF SECTION 4(E) AND THE AGENCY MUST DETERMINE THAT THE STUDENT  
6 IS MAKING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETING A DEGREE.

7 (C) INTERNSHIP OR WORK EXPERIENCE.--A STUDENT WHO ACCEPTS A  
8 GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION [SHALL] MUST COMPLETE A COLLEGE-  
9 APPROVED OR UNIVERSITY-APPROVED INTERNSHIP OR WORK EXPERIENCE  
10 [IN A SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY OR] RELATED [FIELD] TO THE STUDENT'S  
11 APPROVED COURSE OF STUDY WITH AN EMPLOYER LOCATED IN THIS  
12 COMMONWEALTH PRIOR TO RECEIVING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE. THE STUDENT  
13 [SHALL] MUST COMPLY WITH ANY CONDITIONS PLACED UPON THE  
14 INTERNSHIP BY THE AGENCY OR BY THE DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION  
15 WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA [HUMAN RESOURCES] WORKFORCE INVESTMENT  
16 [COUNCIL] BOARD. PROOF OF COMPLETION OF THE INTERNSHIP OR WORK  
17 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE AGENCY PRIOR TO  
18 GRADUATION UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY THE AGENCY.

19 (D) GRADES.--AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION, AN APPLICANT FOR A  
20 SCITECH SCHOLARSHIP MUST HAVE A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE  
21 OF 3.0 OR HIGHER ON A SCALE OF 4.0 OR ITS EQUIVALENT. THE AGENCY  
22 SHALL ANNUALLY VERIFY A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S MAINTENANCE OF THE  
23 REQUIRED GRADE POINT AVERAGE.

24 SECTION 6. [GI BILL FOR THE NEW ECONOMY] TECHNOLOGY  
25 SCHOLARSHIP.

26 (A) AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.--

27 (1) THE AGENCY SHALL AWARD A [GI BILL FOR THE NEW  
28 ECONOMY SCHOLARSHIP] TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF  
29 \$1,000 PER ACADEMIC YEAR OR A LESSER AMOUNT FOLLOWING  
30 APPLICATION OF FEDERAL OR STATE GRANTS UNDER SECTION 4(D) TO

1 A STUDENT ENROLLED FULL TIME IN AN APPROVED EDUCATIONAL  
2 INSTITUTION PURSUING AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN AN APPROVED  
3 COURSE OF STUDY OR IN A PRIVATE LICENSED SCHOOL THAT HAS AN  
4 ACADEMIC PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE AGENCY. THE GRANT SHALL BE  
5 USED FOR EDUCATIONAL COSTS RELATED TO THE PROGRAM, AS  
6 DETERMINED BY THE AGENCY.

7 (2) A STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED PART TIME [AND] OR IS AN  
8 INCUMBENT WORKER PURSUING AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN AN  
9 APPROVED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OR OTHER SPECIALIZED PROGRAM  
10 APPROVED BY THE AGENCY IS ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT OF 20% OF  
11 TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES.

12 (B) TERM OF GRANT.--THE GRANT AWARDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)  
13 SHALL BE FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO ACADEMIC YEARS OR FOR UP TO THREE  
14 ACADEMIC YEARS IF THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN AN APPROVED COURSE  
15 OF STUDY THAT ACCORDING TO THE AGENCY REQUIRES THREE ACADEMIC  
16 YEARS TO COMPLETE. IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR A GRANT THREE TIMES,  
17 THE STUDENT MUST BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 4(D), AND THE  
18 INSTITUTION MUST DETERMINE THAT THE STUDENT IS MAKING  
19 SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETING AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR  
20 THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM.

21 (C) EXCEPTION.--THE AGENCY MAY WAIVE THE ONE-YEAR EMPLOYMENT  
22 REQUIREMENT FOR AN INCUMBENT WORKER FOR EXTENUATING  
23 CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO THE STUDENT'S EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE  
24 LAST YEAR.

25 (D) GRADES.--THE AGENCY SHALL ANNUALLY VERIFY A PROGRAM  
26 PARTICIPANT'S MAINTENANCE OF THE REQUIRED GRADE POINT AVERAGE.  
27 SECTION 8. ADMINISTRATION.

28 (A) VERIFICATION.--THE AGENCY SHALL MONITOR AND VERIFY A  
29 STUDENT'S FULFILLMENT OF ALL INTERNSHIP AND WORK REQUIREMENTS  
30 UNDER THIS ACT.

1 (B) ENFORCEMENT.--THE AGENCY SHALL ENFORCE REPAYMENT OF ALL  
2 SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS FOR A STUDENT WHO DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE  
3 PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, TO INCLUDE USE OF ALL LAWFUL COLLECTION  
4 PROCEDURES AND THE USE OF PRIVATE COLLECTION AGENCIES.

5 (C) TAX.--SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS RECEIVED BY A STUDENT FROM THE  
6 PROGRAM SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED TAXABLE INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF  
7 ARTICLE III OF THE ACT OF MARCH 4, 1971 (P.L.6, NO.2), KNOWN AS  
8 THE TAX REFORM CODE OF 1971.

9 (D) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.--SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS RECEIVED BY A  
10 STUDENT FROM THE PROGRAM SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED FINANCIAL  
11 ASSISTANCE OR APPROPRIATIONS TO THE APPROVED EDUCATIONAL  
12 INSTITUTION.

13 (E) CUSTOMIZED JOB TRAINING.--NO FUNDS UNDER THIS ACT SHALL  
14 BE GRANTED TO A PERSON ENROLLED IN A CUSTOMIZED JOB TRAINING  
15 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM OR CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE FROM A  
16 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WHICH AN EMPLOYER IS  
17 PROVIDING OVER 50% OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT, DIRECTLY OR  
18 INDIRECTLY[, AND FOR WHICH THE STUDENT IS NOT BEING CHARGED  
19 TUITION OR FEES].

20 (F) APPEALS.--THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO  
21 22 PA. CODE CH. 121 (RELATING TO STUDENT FINANCIAL AID).

22 (G) REGULATIONS.--THE AGENCY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS AND  
23 PROCEDURES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT.

24 SECTION 9. ANNUAL REPORT.

25 (A) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORT.--THE AGENCY SHALL PUBLISH A  
26 REPORT BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2000, AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER. THE  
27 REPORT SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE OPERATION OF THE  
28 PROGRAM, TO INCLUDE:

29 (1) TOTAL STUDENTS RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS IN BOTH  
30 THE SCITECH SCHOLARSHIP AND THE [GI BILL FOR THE NEW ECONOMY



PROGRAMS] TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP.

(2) TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO WITHDRAW FROM THE PROGRAM OR INTERNSHIP OR WORK REQUIREMENTS.

(3) THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STUDENTS RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS ATTENDING FOUR-YEAR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, INDEPENDENT TWO-YEAR COLLEGES, PRIVATE LICENSED SCHOOLS AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS REPORTED BY INSTITUTION AND CATEGORY OF INSTITUTION.

(B) SUBMISSION.--THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE CHAIRMEN AND MINORITY CHAIRMEN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SECTION 3. THE APPROPRIATIONS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY FOR THE SCITECH AND GI BILL SCHOLARSHIPS AND FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THOSE SCHOLARSHIPS IN SECTION 228 OF THE ACT OF MAY 24, 2000 (P.L. , NO.21A), KNOWN AS THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION ACT OF 2000, SHALL BE USED FOR THE SCITECH SCHOLARSHIP AND THE TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP AND FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THOSE SCHOLARSHIPS AS SET FORTH IN THIS ACT.

Section ~~2~~ 4. This act shall take effect ~~in 60 days~~. JULY 1, 2000, OR IMMEDIATELY, WHICHEVER IS LATER.

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