

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILLNo. **1361** Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WARD, ALLOWAY, WHITE, GORDNER, WOZNIAK, STACK,
GREENLEAF, MENSCH, SCHWANK, ARGALL, FONTANA, BREWSTER,
ERICKSON, YUDICHAK, RAFFERTY, COSTA, McILHINNEY, BAKER,
SOLOBAY, YAW, VULAKOVICH AND FARNESE, MAY 5, 2014

SENATOR FOLMER, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," establishing the Ready to Succeed
6 Scholarship Program; and conferring powers and imposing
7 duties on the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
8 and the Department of Education.

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

11 ~~Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known <--~~
12 ~~as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a~~
13 ~~section to read:~~

14 ~~Section 2599.6. Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program. (a)~~
15 ~~The Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program is established within~~
16 ~~the agency.~~

17 ~~(b) The agency may use funds appropriated for the purpose of~~
18 ~~this section from the General Fund, and may accept donations and~~
19 ~~contributions from all public and private sources, including the~~

1 ~~Federal Government, to provide scholarships for defraying the~~
2 ~~necessary expense of residents of this Commonwealth who are~~
3 ~~students pursuing postsecondary education at an institution of~~
4 ~~higher education.~~

5 ~~(c) The agency, in consultation with the Department of~~
6 ~~Education, shall administer and establish guidelines for the~~
7 ~~program.~~

8 ~~(d) The Department of Education shall consult with the~~
9 ~~agency to identify and provide guidelines for student~~
10 ~~eligibility and renewal criteria. Student eligibility, at a~~
11 ~~minimum, shall require all of the following:~~

12 ~~(1) Total annual household income which does not exceed one~~
13 ~~hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$110,000). With each new award~~
14 ~~year, the agency shall annually adjust the total annual~~
15 ~~household income threshold under this paragraph to reflect any~~
16 ~~upward changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban~~
17 ~~Consumers (CPI-U) for the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and~~
18 ~~Maryland area.~~

19 ~~(2) At least half-time enrollment in a State grant approved~~
20 ~~program of study.~~

21 ~~(3) Demonstration of outstanding academic achievement.~~

22 ~~(4) Compliance with all requirements of the State grant~~
23 ~~program administered by the agency, notwithstanding the~~
24 ~~financial need requirements of the State grant program.~~

25 ~~(e) Scholarship awards shall be established by the agency~~
26 ~~based upon available resources.~~

27 ~~(f) As used in this section, the following words and phrases~~
28 ~~shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless~~
29 ~~the context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

30 ~~"Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance~~

1 Agency.

2 "Institution of higher education." A postsecondary
3 institution that participates in the State grant program, and is
4 domiciled and headquartered with its principal physical location
5 in this Commonwealth.

6 "Program." The Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program
7 established under this section.

8 "State grant." A grant or scholarship awarded under the act
9 of January 25, 1966 (1965 P.L.1546, No.541), referred to as the
10 Higher Education Scholarship Law.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

12 SECTION 1. THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN <--
13 AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, IS AMENDED BY ADDING AN
14 ARTICLE TO READ:

15 ARTICLE XXII-B

16 READY TO SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP

17 SECTION 2201-B. SHORT TITLE.

18 THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE READY TO
19 SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP ACT.

20 SECTION 2202-B. DEFINITIONS.

21 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE
22 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
23 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

24 "AGENCY." THE PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
25 AGENCY.

26 "STATE GRANT." A GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THE ACT
27 OF JANUARY 25, 1966 (1965 P.L.1546, NO.541), REFERRED TO AS THE
28 HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP LAW.

29 SECTION 2203-B. ESTABLISHMENT.

30 THE READY TO SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED

1 WITHIN THE AGENCY.

2 SECTION 2204-B. AGENCY.

3 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THE AGENCY SHALL USE FUNDS APPROPRIATED
4 FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE FROM THE GENERAL FUND, AND MAY
5 ACCEPT DONATIONS FROM ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES, INCLUDING
6 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO ELIGIBLE
7 STUDENTS TO DEFRAY THE COST OF ATTENDING A STATE GRANT-APPROVED
8 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT IS DOMICILED AND
9 HEADQUARTERED WITH ITS PRINCIPAL LOCATION IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

10 (B) REQUIREMENTS.--THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA DEVELOPED FOR
11 THE RECEIPT OF A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER SUBSECTION (A) SHALL, AT A
12 MINIMUM, REQUIRE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

13 (1) TOTAL ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME NOT TO EXCEED
14 \$110,000. WITH EACH NEW AWARD YEAR, THE AGENCY MAY ANNUALLY
15 ADJUST THE TOTAL ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME THRESHOLD UNDER THIS
16 PARAGRAPH TO REFLECT ANY UPWARD CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE
17 INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS (CPI-U) FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA,
18 NEW JERSEY, DELAWARE AND MARYLAND AREA.

19 (2) AT LEAST HALF-TIME ENROLLMENT IN AN APPROVED COURSE
20 OF STUDY.

21 (3) DEMONSTRATION OF OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

22 (4) COMPLIANCE WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE STATE GRANT
23 PROGRAM EXCEPT FINANCIAL NEED.

24 (C) COMBINATION.--A STUDENT MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A
25 SCHOLARSHIP UNDER SUBSECTION (A) IF THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN
26 COMBINATION WITH A STATE GRANT AWARD FOR THE SAME ACADEMIC YEAR
27 DOES NOT EXCEED THE ANNUALLY ESTABLISHED MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR THE
28 READY TO SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AS ESTABLISHED BY THE
29 AGENCY.

30 (D) DISCRETION.--THE AGENCY SHALL MAKE ALL SCHOLARSHIP

1 AWARDS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION.

2 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.