

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1204 Session of
2006

INTRODUCED BY C. WILLIAMS, MUSTO, RHOADES, MELLOW, STOUT,
BOSCOLA, FONTANA, M. WHITE, COSTA, STACK, KITCHEN, LOGAN,
WASHINGTON, BROWNE, O'PAKE AND WONDERLING, APRIL 26, 2006

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 26, 2006

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 grants for persons entering the field of science and
5 technology.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Sections 5 and 6 of the act of June 23, 1999
9 (P.L.159, No.22), known as the New Economy Technology
10 Scholarship Act, amended June 22, 2000 (P.L.383, No.51), are
11 amended to read:

12 Section 5. SciTech Scholarships.

13 (a) Amount of grants.--The agency shall award a SciTech
14 Scholarship in the amount of [\$3,000] \$4,000 per academic year
15 or a lesser amount following application of Federal and State
16 grants under section 4(d) to a student enrolled full time in an
17 approved educational institution pursuing a bachelor's degree
18 program or its equivalent in an approved course of study. The
19 student must take at least 12 semester hours per semester, or

1 its equivalent, in an approved course of study. The grant shall
2 be used for educational costs related to the undergraduate
3 program as determined by the agency.

4 (b) Term of grant.--A grant shall be awarded beginning no
5 earlier than the second academic year of enrollment in an
6 approved educational institution in a bachelor's degree program
7 or its equivalent in an approved course of study. The grant
8 shall be for a maximum of three academic years or for up to four
9 academic years if the student is enrolled in an approved course
10 of study that according to the agency requires five academic
11 years to complete. In order to qualify for renewals beyond three
12 years, the student must be in compliance with the requirements
13 of section 4(e) and the agency must determine that the student
14 is making satisfactory progress toward completing a degree.

15 (c) Internship or work experience.--A student who accepts a
16 grant under this section must complete a college-approved or
17 university-approved internship or work experience related to the
18 student's approved course of study with an employer located in
19 this Commonwealth prior to receiving a bachelor's degree. The
20 student must comply with any conditions placed upon the
21 internship by the agency or by the department in consultation
22 with the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board. Proof of
23 completion of the internship or work experience requirements
24 must be submitted to the agency prior to graduation unless
25 otherwise authorized by the agency.

26 (d) Grades.--At the time of application, an applicant for a
27 SciTech Scholarship must have a cumulative grade point average
28 of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent. The agency
29 shall annually verify a program participant's maintenance of the
30 required grade point average.

1 Section 6. Technology Scholarship.

2 (a) Amounts of grants.--

3 (1) The agency shall award a Technology Scholarship in
4 the amount of [\$1,000] \$2,000 per academic year or a lesser
5 amount following application of Federal or State grants under
6 section 4(d) to a student enrolled full time in an approved
7 educational institution pursuing an associate's degree in an
8 approved course of study or in a private licensed school that
9 has an academic program approved by the agency. The grant
10 shall be used for educational costs related to the program as
11 determined by the agency.

12 (2) A student who is enrolled part time or is an
13 incumbent worker pursuing an associate's degree in an
14 approved educational institution or other specialized program
15 approved by the agency is eligible for a grant of 20% of
16 tuition and mandatory fees.

17 (b) Term of grant.--The grant awarded under subsection (a)
18 shall be for a maximum of two academic years or for up to three
19 academic years if the student is enrolled in an approved course
20 of study that according to the agency requires three academic
21 years to complete. In order to qualify for a grant three times,
22 the student must be in compliance with section 4(d), and the
23 institution must determine that the student is making
24 satisfactory progress toward completing an associate's degree or
25 the requirements of the certificate program.

26 (c) Exception.--The agency may waive the one-year employment
27 requirement for an incumbent worker for extenuating
28 circumstances related to the student's employment within the
29 last year.

30 (d) Grades.--The agency shall annually verify a program

1 participant's maintenance of the required grade point average.

2 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.