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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 329 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY WARD, GREENLEAF, SCAVELLO, HUTCHINSON, FONTANA,  
TARTAGLIONE, VULAKOVICH, GORDNER, AUMENT, STEFANO, SCHWANK,  
SMITH, RAFFERTY AND YUDICHAK, JANUARY 26, 2015

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 26, 2015

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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 an  
13 article to read:

14 ARTICLE XXII-B

15 READY TO SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP

16 Section 2201-B. Short title of article.

17 This article shall be known and may be cited as the Ready to  
18 Succeed Scholarship Act.

19 Section 2202-B. Definitions.

20 The following words and phrases when used in this article

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
4 Agency.

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

8 Section 2203-B. Establishment.

9 The Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program is established  
10 within the agency.

11 Section 2204-B. Agency.

12 (a) General rule.--The agency shall use funds appropriated  
13 for the purpose of this article from the General Fund and may  
14 accept donations from all public and private sources, including  
15 the Federal Government, to provide scholarships to eligible  
16 students to defray the cost of attending a State grant-approved  
17 institution of higher education that is domiciled and  
18 headquartered with its principal location in this Commonwealth.

19 (b) Requirements.--The eligibility criteria developed for  
20 the receipt of a scholarship under subsection (a) shall, at a  
21 minimum, require all of the following:

22 (1) Total annual household income not to exceed  
23 \$110,000. With each new award year, the agency may annually  
24 adjust the total annual household income threshold under this  
25 paragraph to reflect any upward changes in the Consumer Price  
26 Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Pennsylvania,  
27 New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland area.

28 (2) At least half-time enrollment in an approved course  
29 of study.

30 (3) Demonstration of outstanding academic achievement.

1           (4) Compliance with all aspects of the State grant  
2           program except financial need.

3           (c) Combination.--A student may be eligible to receive a  
4           scholarship under subsection (a) if the scholarship award in  
5           combination with a State grant award for the same academic year  
6           does not exceed the annually established maximum amount for the  
7           Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program as established by the  
8           agency.

9           (d) Discretion.--The agency shall make all scholarship  
10          awards under subsection (a) in its sole discretion.

11          Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.