

REFERENCE TITLE: postsecondary education; resident students; scholarships

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HB 2749

Introduced by
Representatives De Los Santos: Bravo, Hernandez M, Ortiz, Schwiebert,
Seaman

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1701, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; APPROPRIATING MONIES;
RELATING TO FINANCIAL AID.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-1701, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-1701. Arizona promise program; eligibility requirements;
5 award; fund; definitions

6 A. Eligible postsecondary institutions shall implement an Arizona
7 promise program to provide ~~financial assistance~~ FREE POSTSECONDARY
8 EDUCATION to students who meet the criteria prescribed in this section and
9 who are ~~pursuing studies in this state leading to~~ ENROLLED IN A VOCATIONAL
10 PROGRAM, AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM OR a baccalaureate degree PROGRAM.

11 B. Except as otherwise provided by law, to be eligible to
12 participate in the Arizona promise program and to qualify for an award
13 under this section, a student shall meet all of the following
14 requirements:

15 1. Qualify for in-state student status as prescribed in section
16 15-1802 OR 15-1803.

17 2. Have graduated from a high school in this state with a minimum
18 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted
19 in grades nine through twelve.

20 3. Satisfy the admission standards as determined by an eligible
21 postsecondary institution.

22 4. Complete and submit the free application for federal student aid
23 and, IF THE STUDENT QUALIFIES FOR IN-STATE STUDENT STATUS PURSUANT TO
24 SECTION 15-1802, meet the eligibility criteria for the federal pell grant.

25 5. Secure admission to, and be enrolled in, an eligible
26 postsecondary institution for at least full-time status as determined by
27 federal student financial aid guidelines.

28 C. To retain eligibility while pursuing the program of higher
29 learning in which the student is enrolled, the student shall meet all of
30 the following requirements:

31 1. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for
32 eligibility for federal student financial aid.

33 2. Complete and submit the free application for federal student
34 aid.

35 3. Maintain at least full-time status as determined by federal
36 student financial aid guidelines.

37 4. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of eligibility
38 as adopted by the governing board of the eligible postsecondary
39 institution.

40 D. Each eligible postsecondary institution shall provide to each
41 eligible student an award up to the actual cost of in-state tuition and
42 fees, except that an award provided pursuant to this section shall be
43 reduced by the amount of any other federal aid scholarships or public
44 grants and any other financial gifts, grants or aid received by that
45 person.

1 E. An award under this section may be awarded for a maximum of
2 eight academic semesters or their equivalent.

3 F. An award under this section shall be awarded to all eligible
4 applicants without limit other than the amount of monies available for the
5 Arizona promise program and the number of eligible applicants. If
6 appropriated monies are insufficient to provide awards for all eligible
7 applicants: ~~;~~

8 1. The Arizona board of regents shall guarantee the award for
9 applicants who enroll in EITHER:

10 (a) A university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of
11 regents.

12 (b) A COLLEGE IN THIS STATE THAT IS OWNED, OPERATED OR CHARTERED BY
13 A QUALIFYING INDIAN TRIBE ON ITS OWN INDIAN RESERVATION.

14 2. EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT SHALL GUARANTEE THE AWARD FOR
15 APPLICANTS WHO ENROLL IN A COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

16 G. The Arizona promise program fund is established consisting of
17 legislative appropriations and any other monies for the purpose of
18 administering the Arizona promise program and distributing award monies.
19 The Arizona board of regents shall administer the fund, including
20 developing and implementing centralized administrative processes for
21 distributing monies in the fund to eligible postsecondary institutions
22 each fiscal year. The Arizona board of regents may accept and spend
23 federal monies and private grants, gifts, contributions and devises,
24 including private, philanthropic, public and other sources of monies, to
25 assist in carrying out the purposes of this section. Monies in the fund
26 are continuously appropriated and are exempt from the provisions of
27 section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. Monies in the fund
28 may be used for any of the following:

29 1. Reimbursing Arizona promise program awards that cover the
30 balance of tuition and fees for eligible participants enrolled in an
31 eligible postsecondary institution after all other gifts and aid received.

32 2. Administering the Arizona promise program, including hiring and
33 retaining additional personnel. The administration of the program includes
34 data collection, reporting, tracking and analyzing the program.

35 3. Designing and implementing a marketing and promotion plan for
36 the Arizona promise program.

37 H. Annual expenditures for marketing, promoting and administering
38 the Arizona promise program may not exceed three percent of the monies in
39 the fund each fiscal year.

40 I. Monies remaining in the Arizona promise program fund at the end
41 of each fiscal year may be used by eligible postsecondary institutions for
42 Arizona promise program costs in the next fiscal year.

43 J. For the purposes of this section:

44 1. "Eligible postsecondary ~~institutions~~ INSTITUTION" means:
45 ~~universities~~

1 (a) A UNIVERSITY under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of
2 regents.

3 (b) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THIS STATE.

4 (c) A COLLEGE IN THIS STATE THAT IS OWNED, OPERATED OR CHARTERED BY
5 A QUALIFYING INDIAN TRIBE ON ITS OWN INDIAN RESERVATION.

6 2. "Tuition and fees" means tuition, mandatory fees and program
7 fees that are associated with a program in the eligible postsecondary
8 institution and that are charged by an eligible postsecondary institution.

9 Sec. 2. Appropriation; Arizona promise program fund;
10 exemption; intent

11 A. The sum of \$_____ is appropriated from the state general
12 fund in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the Arizona promise program fund
13 established by section 15-1701, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by
14 this act.

15 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
16 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
17 to lapsing of appropriations.

18 C. The legislature intends that the appropriation made in
19 subsection A of this section be considered ongoing funding in future
20 years, except that the amount appropriated shall be the amount required to
21 fund Arizona promise program awards for all eligible applicants pursuant
22 to section 15-1701, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act, in
23 the following year.