

REFERENCE TITLE: community college opportunity grants; appropriations

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

SB 1723

Introduced by
Senator Gonzales

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 12, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-1454; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARDS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 12, article 3, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-1454, to read:

4 15-1454. Community college opportunity grants; eligibility
5 requirements; fund; definition

6 A. BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2024, EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
7 GOVERNING BOARD AND TRIBAL COLLEGE SHALL AWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
8 OPPORTUNITY GRANTS FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AS PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION C OF
9 THIS SECTION. THE GRANTS SHALL BE USED TO PAY FOR TUITION AND APPROVED
10 EDUCATIONAL FEES FOR UP TO EIGHTEEN CREDIT HOURS AT ANY TRIBAL COLLEGE OR
11 COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT FOR ONE YEAR.

12 B. THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANTS SHALL BE FUNDED WITH
13 MONIES DISTRIBUTED FROM THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT FUND
14 ESTABLISHED BY THIS SECTION. IF IN ANY FISCAL YEAR MONIES IN THE
15 COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT FUND ARE INSUFFICIENT TO PAY TUITION
16 AND APPROVED EDUCATIONAL FEES FOR EACH ELIGIBLE STUDENT FOR ONE YEAR AS
17 PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION, THE MONIES DISTRIBUTED FROM THE FUND IN THAT
18 FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE PRORATED. THE AMOUNT OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
19 OPPORTUNITY GRANT MAY NOT EXCEED THE COST OF TUITION AND APPROVED
20 EDUCATIONAL FEES FOR UP TO EIGHTEEN CREDIT HOURS PER SEMESTER AT THE
21 TRIBAL COLLEGE OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF ATTENDANCE FOR ONE YEAR MINUS ALL
22 OTHER FINANCIAL AID, WHICH SHALL BE CREDITED FIRST TO THE STUDENT'S
23 TUITION AND APPROVED EDUCATIONAL FEES, INCLUDING FINANCIAL AID RECEIVED
24 FROM A FEDERAL PELL GRANT. AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED IN FEWER
25 THAN TWELVE CREDIT HOURS PER SEMESTER MAY RECEIVE A MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT
26 THAT IS PRORATED FROM THE FULL-TIME TUITION GRANT AMOUNT BASED ON THE
27 NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS IN WHICH THAT STUDENT IS ENROLLED.

28 C. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT, A
29 STUDENT MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

30 1. HAVE GRADUATED FROM ANY OF THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL
31 OPTIONS IN THIS STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-802 OR HAVE OBTAINED A HIGH
32 SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA IN THIS STATE.

33 2. COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

34 3. MEET ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ENROLL AT A TRIBAL
35 COLLEGE OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THIS STATE FOR AT LEAST SIX CREDIT HOURS.

36 4. BE EITHER:

37 (a) A DEPENDENT STUDENT WHO REPORTS ON A FREE APPLICATION FOR
38 FEDERAL STUDENT AID A PARENTAL FEDERAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME OF \$65,000 OR
39 LESS.

40 (b) AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT WHO REPORTS ON A FREE APPLICATION FOR
41 FEDERAL STUDENT AID A FAMILY ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME OF \$65,000 OR LESS.

42 5. SUBMIT A HIGH SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TRANSCRIPT THAT
43 PROVES THE STUDENT GRADUATED WITH A MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 2.0 ON
44 A 4.0 SCALE. IF HIGH SCHOOL RECORDS NO LONGER EXIST FOR THE STUDENT OR
45 EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO OBTAIN OFFICIAL RECORDS AND THE

1 RECORDS CANNOT BE LOCATED, THE STUDENT MAY SUBMIT EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING
2 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH:

3 (a) A LETTER CERTIFIED BY THE HIGH SCHOOL FROM WHICH THE STUDENT
4 GRADUATED THAT STATES THE STUDENT'S GRADE POINT AVERAGE.

5 (b) IF THE STUDENT'S GRADE POINT AVERAGE IS EVIDENCED BY THE
6 STUDENT'S HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, THE STUDENT'S ORIGINAL HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

7 D. THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT FUND IS ESTABLISHED
8 CONSISTING OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL
9 ADMINISTER THE FUND. MONIES IN THE FUND ARE SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE
10 APPROPRIATION. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL DISTRIBUTE MONIES FROM THE FUND
11 TO EACH TRIBAL COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THIS STATE BASED ON THE
12 COST OF TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES MINUS ALL OTHER FINANCIAL AID FOR
13 STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. TRIBAL
14 COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS SHALL COOPERATE AND PROVIDE ALL
15 NECESSARY INFORMATION TO THE STATE TREASURER FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISBURSING
16 GRANT MONIES FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.

17 E. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "APPROVED EDUCATIONAL FEES"
18 MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 19 1. GENERAL FEES.
- 20 2. REGISTRATION FEES.
- 21 3. FACILITY FEES.
- 22 4. TECHNOLOGY FEES.
- 23 5. LAB FEES OR OTHER PROGRAM OR COURSE FEES, INCLUDING FEES FOR
24 COURSEWORK IN NURSING, CULINARY AND OTHER CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
25 PROGRAMS.
- 26 6. STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES.

27 Sec. 2. Appropriations; community college opportunity grant
28 fund; fiscal years 2024-2025 through 2026-2027

29 The sum of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in
30 each of fiscal years 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 to the community
31 college opportunity grant fund established by section 15-1454, Arizona
32 Revised Statutes, as added by this act.

33 Sec. 3. Retroactivity

34 This act applies retroactively to from and after July 31, 2024.