

# HOUSE BILL No. 5466

January 30, 2018, Introduced by Reps. Lasinski, Ellison, Greig, Sowerby, Pagan, Sneller, Gay-Dagnogo, Love, Brinks, Geiss, LaGrand, Guerra, Garrett, Cambensy, Hertel, Hoadley, Moss, Chang, Liberati, Camilleri, Green, Wittenberg, Durhal, Rabhi, Cochran, Faris, Jones, Dianda, Neeley, Clemente, Hammoud and Chirkun and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to establish an educational scholarship program for certain educators and providers employed in early childhood education and care facilities; to prescribe conditions for repayment of the scholarships in certain circumstances; to provide for the administration of the scholarship program; and to prescribe certain powers and duties of certain state officers, agencies, and departments.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "early  
2 childhood educators scholarship act".

3       Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4       (a) "Early childhood education or care facility" means a child

1 care center, family child care home, or group child care home as  
2 those terms are defined in section 1 of 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111.

3 (b) "Eligible costs" means tuition and fees charged by an  
4 eligible institution for an eligible program; related costs for  
5 room, board, books, supplies, and transportation; and other related  
6 costs determined by the office of great start.

7 (c) "Eligible employment" means employment at an hourly wage  
8 of not more than \$17.00 per hour for an average of at least 40  
9 weeks per year and 25 hours per week as an educator or provider in  
10 an early childhood education or care facility.

11 (d) "Eligible institution" means a degree- or certificate-  
12 granting public or independent nonprofit college or university,  
13 junior college, or community college in this state.

14 (e) "Eligible program" means an associate or baccalaureate  
15 degree program operated in this state by an eligible institution  
16 and approved by the office of great start as appropriate for  
17 training in early childhood care, education, or administration.

18 (f) "Eligible student" means an individual who qualifies for a  
19 scholarship under section 4.

20 (g) "Fund" means the teacher early childhood educators  
21 scholarship fund created under section 6.

22 (h) "Office of great start" or "office" means the office of  
23 great start created within the department of education by Executive  
24 Reorganization Order No. 2011-7, MCL 388.1281.

25 Sec. 3. The early childhood educators scholarship program is  
26 created, to be administered by the office of great start. The  
27 office of great start shall do all of the following:

1 (a) Subject to section 4, award scholarships to eligible  
2 students under this act pursuant to application procedures  
3 established by the office.

4 (b) Develop the scholarship agreement described in section 4.

5 (c) Conduct periodic audits of scholarship recipients to  
6 enforce the requirements of the scholarship agreement described in  
7 section 4 and all other requirements set forth in this act or  
8 promulgated by rule under subdivision (e).

9 (d) Collect repayment of scholarships if required under  
10 section 4.

11 (e) Promulgate rules to implement this act pursuant to the  
12 administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to  
13 24.328.

14 Sec. 4. The office of great start shall award a scholarship  
15 under this act to an individual only if the office determines that  
16 the individual meets all of the following eligibility criteria:

17 (a) Is a resident of this state.

18 (b) Does not have a 4-year undergraduate degree.

19 (c) Has not previously defaulted on any state or federal  
20 student loan and does not owe a refund on any previously received  
21 state or federal financial aid.

22 (d) Currently has and has had for at least 1 year eligible  
23 employment.

24 (e) Is enrolled in or has been accepted into an eligible  
25 program on a full- or part-time basis.

26 (f) If he or she has been attending the eligible program, is  
27 maintaining satisfactory progress in that program according to the

1 standards of the eligible institution.

2 (g) Has entered into a written scholarship agreement with the  
3 office of great start in which he or she agrees to all of the  
4 following:

5 (i) To continue serving in eligible employment while attending  
6 an eligible program and for 1 year immediately succeeding  
7 completion of that program.

8 (ii) Upon the request of the office, to provide the office  
9 with evidence of compliance with the scholarship agreement,  
10 including the eligible employment commitment made under  
11 subparagraph (i), and any other requirements of this act and any  
12 rules promulgated by the office pursuant to this act.

13 (iii) If the individual fails or refuses to comply with the  
14 eligible employment commitment made under subparagraph (i), to  
15 repay all or part of any scholarship money received under this act  
16 plus interest and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees, in  
17 compliance with rules promulgated by the office, including rules  
18 that provide for proportionate repayment if a scholarship recipient  
19 serves in eligible employment for less than the length of the time  
20 required under subparagraph (i) and rules under which a repayment  
21 obligation may be reduced or forgiven due to death, disability, or  
22 other good cause.

23 Sec. 5. Subject to appropriation, an eligible student awarded  
24 a scholarship under section 4 may receive not more than the  
25 following amount of money, as applicable, to be used for eligible  
26 costs incurred in connection with attending an eligible program:

27 (a) \$400.00 per semester credit hour at an eligible

1 institution that is a 4-year college or university.

2 (b) \$250.00 per semester credit hour at an eligible  
3 institution that is a junior or community college.

4 Sec. 6. (1) The early childhood educators scholarship fund is  
5 created within the state treasury.

6 (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from  
7 any source for deposit into the fund, including, but not limited  
8 to, amounts repaid to the office of great start on scholarships  
9 awarded under this act. The state treasurer shall direct the  
10 investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit to the  
11 fund interest and earnings from fund investments.

12 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall  
13 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

14 (4) The department of treasury shall be the administrator of  
15 the fund for auditing purposes.

16 (5) The department of treasury shall expend money from the  
17 fund, upon appropriation, only to provide money to the office of  
18 great start for scholarships awarded under this act.