

SENATE BILL No. 765

January 25, 2018, Introduced by Senators BIEDA, GREGORY, HOOD, YOUNG, HOPGOOD, ANANICH, HERTEL, KNEZEK, WARREN and JOHNSON and referred to the Committee on Education.

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

standards of the eligible institution.

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

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

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

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

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

(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.