

SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 6129

A bill to amend 2020 PA 84, entitled
"Michigan reconnect grant act,"
by amending sections 1, 3, and 5 (MCL 390.1701, 390.1703, and
390.1705) and by adding section 5a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. (1) This act ~~shall be known and~~ may be cited as the
2 "Michigan reconnect grant act".

3 (2) The reconnect program and reconnect initiative created
4 respectively in this act and the Michigan reconnect grant recipient
5 act, **2020 PA 68, MCL 390.1711 to 390.1723**, are intended to provide
6 last-dollar financial assistance to individuals age 25 and older
7 seeking associate degrees or industry-recognized certificates or
8 credentials; to provide those individuals with greater access to

the education and skills needed to succeed in, and meet the demands of, an evolving economy in which there is continuing demand for a talented local workforce; **to drive innovations specific to adult learners in this state's community colleges; to mitigate educational equity gaps in the furtherance of individual prosperity;** and to achieve the goal of increasing the number of residents ages 25 to 64 with a college degree or skill certificate or credential to 60% by 2030.

Sec. 3. As used in this act:

(a) "Center" means the center for educational performance and information created in section 94a of the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1694a.

(b) "Department" means the department of labor and economic opportunity.

(c) "Eligible institution" means a postsecondary educational institution that meets all of the following:

(i) Is an accredited public community college in this state.

(ii) Complies with applicable restraints on fee and tuition rate increases, if any, provided for in article II of the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1801 to 388.1830.

(iii) Participates in quality assurance protocols established by the department for purposes of accurately tracking student outcomes described in section 5(g) and (h).

(iv) Submits a written report of all of the following information to the department by not later than October 1, 2020 and each year thereafter by not later than June 30:

(A) The institution's goals, expressed numerically, for student persistence and credential completion.

~~(B) An inventory of the institution's currently implemented~~

~~strategies to improve student success outcomes, including guided pathways, proactive advising, and remediation. Regarding remediation, the report must detail the institution's current policy for determining whether a student is to be placed in developmental or credit-bearing courses.~~

~~(C) Policies for converting prior learning into community college credit wherever possible, including, but not limited to, prior learning demonstrated by coursework completed at the institution or any other postsecondary educational institution, including coursework completed in the distant past, or by college level equivalent courses, college level equivalent credit examinations, military training, education, or certification, or other relevant work or life experience. As used in this sub-subparagraph, "college level equivalent courses" and "college level equivalent credit examinations" mean those terms as described in section 1472 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1472.~~

(B) A demonstration of ways in which the institution follows best practices in providing programs of study and student support based on national evidence, including partnering with institutions that grant bachelor's degrees, providing coursework for general studies students and requirements of associate degrees and certificates, providing stackable industry-recognized micro credentials within certificate and associate degree programs, providing credit for prior learning, providing work-based learning opportunities, and providing holistic student support services.

(C) The institution's current policy for determining a student's eligibility to enroll directly into freshman-level courses without remediation.

(D) A description of and evidence base for all models of

1 **remediation currently offered by the institution.**

2 (v) By not later than ~~January 1, 2022,~~ **August 1, 2023**, for **all**
3 Michigan reconnect grant students who need academic remediation,
4 ~~provides accelerated courses aimed at enabling those students to~~
5 ~~raise their skills to college level and complete credit bearing~~
6 ~~courses. To meet this criterion, an eligible institution must~~
7 ~~provide a remediation program that follows 1~~ **appropriate academic**
8 **support, including all** of the following:

9 ~~(A) A corequisite model under which a student concurrently~~
10 ~~enrolls in a developmental education course and a freshman-level~~
11 ~~course in the same subject area for each subject area needing~~
12 ~~remediation, to be completed concurrently. An institution providing~~
13 ~~a remediation program that follows the model described in this sub-~~
14 ~~subparagraph or sub-subparagraph (B) or (C) remains eligible~~
15 ~~whether or not it charges tuition or fees for the program.~~

16 ~~(B) A compression model under which a student enrolls in 2 or~~
17 ~~more courses, either a combination of developmental and college-~~
18 ~~level courses or 2 or more levels of developmental courses, within~~
19 ~~a single semester, to be completed sequentially.~~

20 ~~(C) A modularization model under which the content of 1 or~~
21 ~~more developmental courses is divided into discrete sections with a~~
22 ~~student assigned to complete only the modules that he or she needs~~
23 ~~to qualify for the associated college-level gateway course required~~
24 ~~in his or her program of study.~~

25 ~~(D) An independent model of the institution's own choosing. To~~
26 ~~be eligible under this sub-subparagraph, the institution must~~
27 ~~provide the remediation program at no charge to students or the~~
28 ~~Michigan reconnect grant program.~~

29 **(A) A corequisite model of academic support for gateway**

1 English and mathematics pathway courses under which a student
2 concurrently enrolls in a developmental education course and a
3 freshman-level course in the same or a related subject area for
4 each subject area needing remediation, to be completed during the
5 same semester as the freshman-level course. An institution
6 providing corequisite support as described in this sub-subparagraph
7 remains eligible whether or not it charges tuition or fees for the
8 developmental education portions of the program.

9 (B) Any additional remediation programs as the institution
10 considers appropriate, subject to all of the following:

11 (I) An additional remediation program must serve as a
12 supplement to, not as an alternative to, the corequisite model
13 described in sub-subparagraph (A).

14 (II) For each additional remediation program, the institution
15 must include in its annual report, pursuant to subparagraph (iv) (D),
16 an evidence-based rationale for the program.

17 (III) An additional remediation program must be offered at no
18 charge to Michigan reconnect grant students or offered outside of
19 the institutional tuition and fee structure. For a program offered
20 outside of its tuition and fee structure, an institution may use
21 foundation or other local funding sources or refer students to
22 adult education providers.

23 (vi) Provides reasonable accommodations to Michigan reconnect
24 grant students with disabilities as required by section 504 of
25 title V of the rehabilitation act of 1973, 29 USC 794, and subtitle
26 A of title II of the Americans with disabilities act of 1990, 42
27 USC 12131 to 12134.

28 (vii) Designates an individual employed by the institution as
29 the institution's primary contact with the department for purposes

1 of coordinating the administration of the Michigan reconnect grant
2 program in accordance with this act.

3 (viii) Demonstrates, in a form and manner prescribed by the
4 department, that the institution does all of the following:

5 (A) Is working to adopt best practices for partnering with
6 bachelor's degree granting institutions, providing coursework for
7 general studies and requirements of associate degrees and
8 certificates, providing stackable industry-recognized micro
9 credentials within certificate and associate degree programs,
10 providing credit for prior learning, providing work-based learning
11 opportunities, providing holistic student support services, and
12 providing a guided pathways model by which students receive early
13 advising and career exploration, set a pathway of interest during
14 their first term, and develop a full program plan within their
15 first or second term.

16 (B) Informs Michigan reconnect grant students upon admission
17 of its policies for converting prior learning into community
18 college credit and any means available to maximize acceleration, as
19 described in subparagraph (iv) (B) .

20 (C) Supports adult learners by offering competency-based
21 courses and programs.

22 (D) Awards academic credit to learners scoring the minimum
23 American Council on Education standard score on college-level
24 credit exams from organizations such as CLEP and DSST.

25 (E) Encourages Michigan reconnect grant students to establish
26 an account on the institution's employment database.

27 (F) Identifies best practices in student success, reviews
28 evidence to support best practices, and discusses with relevant
29 experts emerging opportunities to increase the success of Michigan

1 reconnect grant students. Subject to section 5a, an institution
 2 must perform the requirements of this sub-subparagraph in
 3 consultation with the Michigan Center for Adult College Success.

4 ~~(d) "Gift aid" means federal Pell grants under 20 USC 1070a~~
 5 ~~and tuition incentive program benefits under section 256 of the~~
 6 ~~school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1856. The term does not~~
 7 ~~include any of the following:~~

8 ~~(i) Student loans.~~

9 ~~(ii) Work-study awards.~~

10 ~~(iii) Qualified withdrawals made from education savings accounts~~
 11 ~~to pay higher education expenses pursuant to the Michigan education~~
 12 ~~savings program act, 2000 PA 161, MCL 390.1471 to 390.1486.~~

13 ~~(iv) Higher education expenses paid under the Michigan~~
 14 ~~educational trust program, pursuant to the Michigan education trust~~
 15 ~~act, 1986 PA 316, MCL 390.1421 to 390.1442.~~

16 ~~(v) Higher education expenses paid under the Michigan promise~~
 17 ~~zone authority act, 2008 PA 549, MCL 390.1661 to 390.1679.~~

18 **(d)** ~~(e)~~ "Industry-recognized certificate or credential" means
 19 a certificate or credential that is portable and is sought or
 20 accepted by multiple employers within an industry for purposes of
 21 recruitment, hiring, or promotion.

22 **(e)** ~~(f)~~ "Michigan reconnect grant student" means a student
 23 admitted to and enrolled in an eligible institution, ~~and regardless~~
 24 **of whether the student is** receiving a Michigan reconnect grant
 25 under this act.

26 Sec. 5. The Michigan reconnect grant program is created in the
 27 department for the purpose of providing Michigan reconnect grants
 28 to individuals eligible for those grants under the Michigan
 29 reconnect grant recipient act, **2020 PA 68, MCL 390.1711 to**

1 **390.1723.** The department shall do all of the following:

2 (a) Develop and administer the program.

3 (b) Create and maintain a program website.

4 (c) Create and maintain a marketing campaign for the program.

5 (d) Operate a help desk for the program.

6 (e) Create and maintain a network of navigators to help
7 Michigan reconnect grant students navigate the path to college,
8 supporting but not supplanting the programming and assistance
9 offered by community colleges. **In connection with maintaining this**
10 **network of navigators, the department shall ensure that navigators**
11 **are instructed to inform Michigan reconnect grant applicants of any**
12 **relevant policies for earning credit for prior learning, as**
13 **described in section 3(c) (iv) (B) , and connect Michigan reconnect**
14 **grant applicants to their local workforce development agency for**
15 **additional support services and registration with their local**
16 **career services office.**

17 (f) Provide Michigan reconnect grant students with information
18 about skills in demand and related compensation in the local labor
19 market.

20 (g) Partner with the center to report, in a user-friendly
21 format, credential completion outcomes of Michigan reconnect grant
22 students.

23 (h) To facilitate the reporting of valid and reliable
24 longitudinal data under subdivision (g), ensure that all eligible
25 institutions and other individuals and entities that participate in
26 the implementation of the Michigan reconnect grant program use the
27 unique statewide student identification codes issued by the center
28 to track Michigan reconnect grant students in accordance with
29 section 94a of the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL

1 388.1694a, and require eligible institutions to identify and report
2 at the student level any attempts and completion for gateway
3 English and mathematics courses in a form and manner as prescribed
4 by the center.

5 ~~(i) Select and convene a workgroup to study developmental~~
6 ~~education placement policies appropriate for eligible institutions,~~
7 ~~subject to all of the following:~~

8 ~~(i) The workgroup must include representatives from the~~
9 ~~governor's office, the legislature, eligible institutions, the~~
10 ~~department of education, secondary schools, nonprofit~~
11 ~~organizations, the United States Department of Labor's Office of~~
12 ~~Apprenticeship and the business community.~~

13 ~~(ii) Not later than 9 months after the effective date of this~~
14 ~~act, the workgroup shall provide the department with written~~
15 ~~recommendations that will assist the department in doing all of the~~
16 ~~following:~~

17 ~~(A) Identify placement practices and policies that ensure~~
18 ~~students know when remediation is required, what types of academic~~
19 ~~and nonacademic supports will be available during remediation, and~~
20 ~~when they can expect to complete credit-bearing English and~~
21 ~~mathematics courses. Policies must emphasize placement in college-~~
22 ~~level courses for as many students as possible, with students~~
23 ~~requiring remediation being placed in appropriate programs. For~~
24 ~~purposes of this sub-subparagraph, on and after January 1, 2022, a~~
25 ~~remediation program is appropriate only if it complies with section~~
26 ~~3(c)(v).~~

27 ~~(B) Encourage eligible institutions across this state to adopt~~
28 ~~consistent placement policies.~~

29 ~~(C) Clearly communicate sound policies for course placement~~

1 ~~and options for remedial courses.~~

2 ~~(iii) Following the department's acceptance of the workgroup's~~
 3 ~~recommendations under subparagraph (ii), the workgroup shall~~
 4 ~~disband.~~

5 ~~(j) Not later than 6 months after the effective date of this~~
 6 ~~act, organize regional meetings of labor market stakeholders,~~
 7 ~~including business organizations, trade unions, community colleges,~~
 8 ~~Michigan works agencies, private training providers, and regional~~
 9 ~~workforce and economic development representatives, to plan~~
 10 ~~effective ways to ensure that occupational certificates provided by~~
 11 ~~eligible institutions provide skills in demand in the regional~~
 12 ~~labor market.~~

13 **(i) Establish a process to allow eligible institutions to be**
 14 **reimbursed for awarding credit for prior learning at a rate of**
 15 **\$80.00 per credit hour for credit awarded to Michigan reconnect**
 16 **grant students for Advanced Placement, CLEP, DSST, military**
 17 **training, industry credentials, work-based learning, portfolio**
 18 **assessment, and other types of credit for prior learning as**
 19 **determined by the department.**

20 **(j) ~~(k)~~As part of the department's responsibility to better**
 21 **connect education and training demands in the labor market with**
 22 **qualified degree, training, and apprenticeship programs, facilitate**
 23 **efforts by businesses, unions, and community colleges to**
 24 **effectively match skills provided with those in demand and**
 25 **encourage eligible institutions across this state to adopt**
 26 **consistent placement policies.**

27 **(k) To facilitate maximum 4-year completion rates for Michigan**
 28 **reconnect grant students, implement all of the following program**
 29 **requirements:**

1 (i) The center shall provide each eligible institution with a
2 4-year adult completion rate baseline that reflects the percentage
3 of degree-seeking adult students age 25 and up who enrolled at that
4 institution in the fall of 2017 and earned an associate degree or
5 occupational certificate, or transferred to a 4-year university or
6 college, by August 2021. Degree-seeking adult students age 25 and
7 up who enrolled at the institution in the fall of 2017 and
8 transferred to another eligible institution must be subtracted from
9 both the numerator and denominator in calculating the 4-year adult
10 completion rate baseline.

11 (ii) The center shall annually provide the department each
12 eligible institution's credential completion numbers and rates to
13 determine whether the institution has maintained full program
14 standing. To assist the center in this annual reporting, by a
15 deadline set by the department, each eligible institution shall
16 provide the center with a preliminary calculation of the
17 institution's previous year's credential completion numbers and
18 rates. The center shall consider an institution's preliminary
19 calculations when making its independent determination of the
20 institution's credential completion numbers and rates. To maintain
21 full program standing, an institution must achieve 1 of the
22 following, as applicable:

23 (A) For an institution with a 4-year adult completion rate
24 baseline as provided by the center under subparagraph (i) of less
25 than 30%, the institution must subsequently achieve each year a 4-
26 year completion rate that is no less than 3 percentage points
27 greater than its immediately preceding 4-year completion rate until
28 a 30% 4-year completion rate is attained; then must subsequently
29 achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is no less than 2

1 percentage points greater than its immediately preceding 4-year
2 rate until a 50% 4-year completion rate is attained; and then must
3 subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is
4 greater, by no specific measure, than its immediately preceding 4-
5 year completion rate until a 75% 4-year completion rate is
6 attained.

7 (B) For an institution with a 4-year adult completion rate
8 baseline as provided by the center under subparagraph (i) equal to
9 or greater than 30% and less than 50%, the institution must
10 subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is no
11 less than 2 percentage points greater than its immediately
12 preceding 4-year completion rate until a 50% 4-year completion rate
13 is attained; and then must subsequently achieve each year a 4-year
14 completion rate that is greater, by no specific measure, than its
15 immediately preceding 4-year completion rate until a 75% 4-year
16 completion rate is attained.

17 (C) For an institution with a 4-year adult completion rate
18 baseline as provided by the center under subparagraph (i) equal to
19 or greater than 50% and less than 75%, the institution must
20 subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is
21 greater, by no specific measure, than its immediately preceding 4-
22 year completion rate until a 75% 4-year completion rate is
23 attained.

24 (iii) An institution that fails to achieve its annual
25 completion-gain target under subparagraph (ii) is placed on
26 probationary status. If it meets its annual completion-gain target
27 the subsequent year, it is returned to full program-standing
28 status.

29 (iv) An institution that fails to meet its annual completion-

1 gain target for 2 consecutive years is placed on low-performing
2 status with the following consequences:

3 (A) In a time and manner prescribed by the department, the
4 institution shall develop a corrective action plan in consultation
5 with the department's Office of Sixty by 30 or its successor, the
6 Michigan Community College Association, and, subject to section 5a,
7 the Michigan Center for Adult College Success, and the institution
8 shall submit its corrective action plan to the Office of Sixty by
9 30 or its successor for approval.

10 (B) In the first year after an institution is placed on low-
11 performing status and each succeeding year in which the institution
12 fails to meet its completion target, this state will reimburse the
13 institution only 90% of the last-dollar tuition cost of each
14 Michigan reconnect grant student, the institution being required to
15 pay the remaining 10% of last-dollar tuition cost out of other
16 institution revenues in order to remain eligible for participation
17 in the Michigan reconnect program. An institution on low-performing
18 status shall not charge Michigan reconnect grant students for the
19 gap between tuition cost and reduced state reimbursement.

20 (C) In the year immediately following an institution placed on
21 low-performing status achieving its annual completion-rate target,
22 that institution must be returned to full program-standing status
23 and receive a 100% state reimbursement for the cost of last-dollar
24 tuition grants to Michigan reconnect grant students.

25 (I) By not later than ~~February~~ **June** 1 each year, beginning in
26 2021, provide a written report detailing the progress of the
27 Michigan reconnect grant program to the chairpersons of the
28 standing committees and the appropriations subcommittees of the
29 house of representatives and senate having jurisdiction over

1 legislation or oversight of appropriations pertaining to workforce
2 development. The report **must be made available to the public on the**
3 **department's website and,** at minimum, must include all of the
4 following information for the immediately preceding academic year:

5 (i) The total amount of Michigan reconnect grants awarded to
6 Michigan reconnect grant students.

7 (ii) The total amount of funding used for oversight and
8 implementation of the Michigan reconnect grant program, including,
9 but not limited to, total funding used for each of the following:

10 (A) Full-time equated positions.

11 (B) System improvements.

12 (C) Training costs.

13 (iii) The total amount of funding used for program support
14 services, including, but not limited to, total funding used for
15 each of the following:

16 (A) Full-time equated positions.

17 (B) Case management.

18 (C) Technical assistance.

19 (iv) The total amount of funding used for marketing.

20 (v) The total number of navigators employed by the department;
21 the total number of navigators assigned to each eligible
22 institution; and the number of Michigan reconnect grant students
23 assigned to each navigator, organized by eligible institution.

24 (vi) The total number of eligible institutions to which
25 Michigan reconnect grants were paid for credit to student accounts
26 under section 17 of the Michigan reconnect grant recipient act,
27 **2020 PA 68, MCL 390.1717;** a list of the names of those eligible
28 institutions; and the total number and amount of Michigan reconnect
29 grants that were awarded, organized by eligible institution.

(vii) The amount of credit awarded for prior learning by eligible institutions to be reimbursed at a rate of \$80.00 per credit hour for credit awarded to Michigan reconnect grant students for Advanced Placement, CLEP, DSST, military training, industry credentials, work-based learning, portfolio assessment, and other types of credit for prior learning as determined by the department.

(viii) ~~(vii)~~—The total number of individuals who applied for Michigan reconnect grants; the total number of individuals awarded those grants; **the mean and median grant amounts**; and the total number of grant recipients who earned either an associate degree or industry-recognized certificate or credential.

(ix) ~~(viii)~~—Any other relevant information, as determined by the department.

Sec. 5a. Subject to appropriation, there is created the Michigan Center for Adult College Success in the department or, as may be provided in connection with an appropriation implementing this section, another state department or agency or an appropriate nonprofit organization. The Michigan Center for Adult College Success shall serve as this state's primary resource for research, support models, and best practices on ensuring adult enrollment and completion of college degrees and certificates at eligible institutions.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless House Bill No. 6130 of the 101st Legislature is enacted into law.