

H.4145 - Scholarships and Grants excerpts

Section 59-53-2620.

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(B) The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education shall establish a Workforce Scholarships and Grants fund for eligible individuals to be used for tuition and education related expenses for eligible career training and certification programs. The board, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education or its successor, shall develop and maintain eligibility criteria for scholarships and grants. Funds may be used to provide opportunities through existing programs.

(C) The Department of Employment and Workforce shall coordinate with the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education to identify and refer eligible individuals to the training programs and scholarship opportunities established in this section. Also, the Department of Employment and Workforce shall coordinate with the Department of Commerce and the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the job placement of eligible individuals who have completed the necessary training and certification to ensure that qualified individuals are matched with available employment opportunities in high demand jobs throughout the State."

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Section 59-53-110. (A) There is created a Workforce Scholarships and Grants fund administered by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education. The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarship funding for eligible individuals to pursue career education through eligible programs.

(B) As used in this section:

(1) 'Qualifying individual' means a person who is a South Carolina resident and who is eligible to be enrolled in a South Carolina technical college or professional certification program.

(2) 'Cost of attendance' means the total amount of money charged for the cost of a qualifying individual to attend an eligible program including, but not limited to, tuition, fees for attending the school, textbooks, and school-related transportation, less all federal grants and need-based grants.

(3) 'Eligible program' means a program that:

Succeed SC

1. Under Succeed SC, this grant program would be housed at DEW – but all grants and scholarships would ultimately end up at the Tech Schools, so this is an acceptable area for compromise.
2. Also, under this bill, DEW coordinates with the Tech System to identify and refer recipients, as well as match graduates with jobs.
3. The qualifications for eligibility are broader than those envisioned by Succeed SC – however – the legislation gives the Tech System and Dept. of Ed latitude to narrow the requirements. Succeed SC.
4. We would work through the Governor's Tech System appointees, DEW, and the Coordinating Council to ultimately target the same high need population contemplated by Succeed SC.

- (a) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin;
 - (b) is located in this State;
 - (c) has school facilities that are subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws; and
 - (d) meets all eligibility guidelines promulgated by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education in consultation with the Department of Education.
- (4) 'Person' means an individual, partnership, corporation, or other similar entity.
- (C) Grants may be awarded from the fund in an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars or the total cost of attendance, whichever is less, for students to attend the program of their choice.
- (D)(1) The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, in consultation with the Department of Education, is responsible for determining if a program meets the criteria established by subsection (A)(3), and shall publish an approved list of qualifying programs. For the purpose of this subsection, the board shall promulgate regulations further enumerating the specifics of these criteria.
- (2) By the first day of August for the current fiscal year, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, on its website available to the general public, shall provide a list of approved programs that accept grants for eligible students and that in the board's determination are in compliance with the requirements of subsection (A)(3).
- (E) Contributions made to the fund must be used to provide grants for tuition, fees, transportation, or textbook expenses to individuals enrolled in eligible programs who qualify for these grants under the provisions of this section. A person contributing to the fund may not designate a specific individual or institution as the beneficiary of the contribution."

5. This bill sets the outer limits of scholarships and grants at \$10,000 – but our goal would be to also work with the Tech System to set program criteria that prioritize lower cost, short-term, nationally recognized certification programs that serve high demand fields with immediate and plentiful job availability.

6. None of the funding is tied to degree-seeking programs, so like SucceedSC, it is job-focused skills training targeted at businesses and individuals who don't benefit from programs like Lottery Tuition Assistance and ReadySC.

7. In addition to the scholarships and grants language excerpted here, H. 4145 also: establishes a Coordinating Council, provides for intergovernmental data sharing (a Haley priority under Succeed SC), invests in high school workforce programs (equipment, facilities, instructional materials, etc.).