

6598

I N S E N A T E

January 29, 2016

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the establishment of the New York promise program for community colleges; and making an appropriation therefor

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 Section 1. Article 126 of the education law is amended by adding a new
2 section 6311 to read as follows:
3 S 6311. NEW YORK PROMISE PROGRAM. 1. ESTABLISHMENT. THERE IS HEREBY
4 ESTABLISHED THE NEW YORK PROMISE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES.
5 2. ADMINISTRATION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE NEW YORK PROM-
6 ISE PROGRAM AS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS SECTION. SUBJECT TO SUBDIVISIONS
7 FIVE AND SIX OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A WAIVER OF
8 TUITION FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSES TO A PERSON WHO MEETS THE CRITERIA
9 DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISIONS THREE AND FOUR OF THIS SECTION. SUCH WAIVER
10 SHALL BE A GRANT AND LIMITED AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISIONS FIVE AND SIX OF
11 THIS SECTION.
12 3. ELIGIBILITY. A GRANT SHALL BE AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION TO A
13 PERSON WHO:
14 (A) IS ENROLLED IN COURSES THAT ARE:
15 (I) OFFERED AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THIS STATE; AND
16 (II) DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, TO BE REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION OF:
17 (1) A ONE-YEAR CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS WHO PLAN TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER
18 POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION OF EDUCATION;
19 (2) AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE; OR
20 (3) A PROGRAM IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.
21 (B) HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS PRIOR
22 TO ENROLLING IN THE COURSES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVI-
23 SION;
24 (C) ATTAINED THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION IN THIS STATE PRIOR TO:
25 (I) RECEIVING A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; OR
26 (II) RECEIVING A GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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(D) ATTAINED THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (C) OF THIS SUBDIVISION WITHIN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE THE PERSON FIRST ENROLLS IN COURSES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION;

(E) EARNED A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 2.5 OR BETTER IN HIGH SCHOOL OR OTHERWISE DEMONSTRATED AN EQUIVALENT ACADEMIC ABILITY, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

(F) COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) FOR EACH ACADEMIC YEAR AND ACCEPTED ALL STATE AND FEDERAL AID GRANTS AVAILABLE, IF ELIGIBLE TO FILE THE APPLICATION; AND

(G) HAS NOT COMPLETED EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

(I) MORE THAN A TOTAL OF NINETY CREDIT HOURS, OR THE EQUIVALENT, AT A POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION OF EDUCATION; OR

(II) A CURRICULUM, DEGREE OR PROGRAM, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

4. CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY. (A) A PERSON CONTINUES TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE PERSON, IN ADDITION TO SATISFYING THE CRITERIA DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION:

(I) MAINTAINS A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 2.5 OR BETTER DURING EACH TERM FOR WHICH SUCH PERSON HAS RECEIVED A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION;

(II) MAKES SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARDS A ONE-YEAR CURRICULUM, DEGREE OR PROGRAM, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

(III) ENROLLS IN COURSES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION FOR A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS TO BE CONSIDERED AT LEAST A HALF-TIME STUDENT EACH TERM FOR AT LEAST THREE TERMS IN EACH CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

(B) A PERSON WHO FAILS TO MAINTAIN THE CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE SPECIFIED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION BECOMES INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION FOR THE TERM AFTER WHICH THE PERSON FAILS TO MAINTAIN THE CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE, UNLESS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION IS WAIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

5. AWARDS. (A) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF A GRANT AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE BASED ON EACH TERM THAT A PERSON IS ENROLLED IN COURSES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION. AFTER THE AMOUNT OF TUITION FOR THE PERSON FOR THE TERM IS REDUCED BY FIFTY DOLLARS, TO BE PAID BY THE PERSON, AND REDUCED BY ANY AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY THE PERSON IN STATE AND FEDERAL AID GRANTS, THE PERSON SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION IN AN AMOUNT THAT EQUALS:

(I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, NOT LESS THAN THE GREATER OF:

(1) ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS; AND

(2) THE PERSON'S ACTUAL COST OF TUITION.

(II) NOT MORE THAN THE LESSER OF:

(1) THE AVERAGE COST OF TUITION AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THIS STATE, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

(2) THE PERSON'S ACTUAL COST FOR TUITION.

(B) THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF A GRANT, AS CALCULATED UNDER PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION, MAY BE PRORATED FOR A PERSON WHO IS ENROLLED IN COURSES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION FOR A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS TO BE CONSIDERED AT LEAST A HALF-TIME STUDENT BUT NOT A FULL-TIME STUDENT.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PRESCRIBE BY RULE OR REGULATION WHETHER TO INCLUDE FEES, AND ANY LIMITATIONS RELATED TO THE INCLUSION OF FEES, WHEN

1 DETERMINING THE ACTUAL COST OF TUITION OR THE AVERAGE COST OF TUITION
2 UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION.

3 6. TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT. THE TOTAL AMOUNT IN GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS
4 SECTION BY THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT EXCEED TEN MILLION DOLLARS PER FISCAL
5 YEAR, OR ANY LESSER AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE
6 OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT BY RULE OR REGULATION THE
7 PRIORITY BY WHICH GRANTS ARE AWARDED, WHICH MAY ALLOW FOR PREFERENCE TO
8 BE GIVEN TO PERSONS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR HIGH SCHOOLS THAT
9 MEET SPECIFIED CRITERIA.

10 7. RULES AND REGULATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT ANY RULES AND
11 REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS SECTION INCLUDING
12 ANY REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO:

13 (A) SPECIFYING THE FORM AND TIMELINES FOR SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION
14 FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION;

15 (B) DETERMINING WHETHER A PERSON IS ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS
16 SECTION, INCLUDING WHETHER THE PERSON SHALL BE GIVEN PRIORITY AS ALLOWED
17 UNDER SUBDIVISION SIX OF THIS SECTION;

18 (C) IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS OR POLICIES THAT IMPROVE THE ACADEMIC
19 SUCCESS OR COMPLETION RATES FOR PERSONS WHO RECEIVE A GRANT UNDER THIS
20 SECTION;

21 (D) PRESCRIBING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND GRANT CALCULATIONS FOR
22 PERSONS DUALY ENROLLED IN A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY;
23 AND

24 (E) EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS
25 SECTION, INCLUDING ANY REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING DATA NEEDED FOR EVALU-
26 ATION.

27 8. NO LATER THAN DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST OF EACH EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR, THE
28 DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE
29 SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY A REPORT THAT SUMMARIZES THE
30 DEPARTMENT'S FINDINGS ON THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER
31 THIS SECTION. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

32 (A) STUDENT COMPLETION RATES OF CURRICULA, DEGREES AND PROGRAMS
33 DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF
34 THIS SECTION;

35 (B) THE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL AID GRANTS RECEIVED BY PERSONS WHO RECEIVED
36 A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION;

37 (C) THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT HAD
38 STUDENTS RECEIVE A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION;

39 (D) THE FINANCIAL AND ENROLLMENT IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM ON COMMUNITY
40 COLLEGES AND PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THIS STATE; AND

41 (E) THE OVERALL SUCCESS RATE OF THIS PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL IMPACT OF
42 THE PROGRAM.

43 S 2. The sum of ten million dollars (\$ 10,000,000.00), or so much
44 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of
45 education from any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to
46 the credit of the department of education not otherwise appropriated for
47 services and expenses of the New York State Promise Program for the
48 purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such sum shall be
49 payable on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers
50 certified or approved by the commissioner of education, or his duly
51 designated representative in the manner provided by law. No expenditure
52 shall be made from this appropriation until a certificate of approval of
53 availability shall have been issued by the director of the budget and
54 filed with the state comptroller and a copy filed with the chairman of
55 the senate finance committee and the chairman of the assembly ways and
56 means committee. Such certificate may be amended from time to time by

1 the director of the budget and a copy of each such amendment shall be
2 filed with the state comptroller, the chairman of the senate finance
3 committee and the chairman of the assembly ways and means committee.
4 S 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
5 it shall have become a law and apply to courses enrolled in for the
6 2016-2017 academic year.