STATE OF NEW YORK

7888

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

July 19, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. CUNNINGHAM -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT directing the New York state higher education services corporation to conduct an audit of the excelsior scholarship program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Corporation" shall mean the New York state higher education services corporation.

(b) "Adjusted gross income" shall mean the total of the combined adjusted gross income of the applicant and the applicant's parents or the applicant and the applicant's spouse, if married.

(c) "Qualifying year" shall mean the adjusted gross income as reported on the federal income tax return, or as otherwise obtained by the corporation, for the calendar year coinciding with the tax year established by the U.S. department of education to qualify applicants for federal student financial aid programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, for the school year in which application for assistance is made.

§ 2. The corporation shall conduct an audit of the excelsior scholarship program, as established by section 669-h of the education law. Such audit shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) the adjusted gross income for the qualifying year of scholarship applicants and recipients, respectively; and

(b) the diversity of scholarship applicants and recipients, respectively, including statistics on race and ethnicity, LGBTQ+ status, country of origin, and disability status.

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

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§ 3. Such corporation shall make a report of the findings of its audit, including any recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary or appropriate. Such report shall be delivered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly no later than one year after the effective date of this act.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed two years after such effective date.