STATE OF NEW YORK

3296

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 24, 2025

Introduced by Sen. WEIK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the Gold Award and Eagle Scout achievement scholarship

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 668-h to read as follows:

§ 668-h. Gold Award and Eagle Scout achievement scholarship. 1. Purpose. The Gold Award and Eagle Scout achievement scholarship is hereby established for the purpose of granting scholarship awards to New York state high school graduates who achieve a Gold Award from the Girl Scouts of the United States of America or an Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America.

2. Eligibility. To be eligible for such awards, an applicant must have graduated from a New York state high school, enrolled in an approved undergraduate, full-time program of study in a New York state public post-secondary institution beginning in the two thousand twenty-five--two thousand twenty-six academic year or thereafter, and achieved a Gold Award from the Girl Scouts of the United States of America or an Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America. An applicant shall show proof of such Gold Award or Eagle Scout from a Girl Scouts of the United States of America council, or Boy Scouts of America council located in the state.

3. Awards. Within amounts appropriated therefor, the president shall grant an annual award to eligible applicants pursuant to subdivision two of this section in the amount of five hundred dollars for not more than four academic years of undergraduate study, or five academic years, if the program of study normally requires five years as defined by the commissioner pursuant to article thirteen of this chapter.

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

LBD01828-01-5

4. Offset. Such awards may be used to offset the applicant's total cost of attendance determined for federal Title IV student financial aid purposes.

5. Rules. The corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations, and may promulgate emergency regulations, necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.