

IC 21-12-16

Chapter 16. Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship Program and Fund

IC 21-12-16-1

"Program"

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "program" means the next generation Hoosier educators scholarship program established by section 2 of this chapter.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-2

Program established; authority to award scholarships

Sec. 2. (a) The next generation Hoosier educators scholarship program is established.

(b) The commission shall receive and consider applications for a next generation Hoosier educators scholarship under this chapter.

(c) Beginning in an academic year beginning after June 30, 2017, the commission may award a next generation Hoosier educators scholarship to an eligible applicant under this chapter.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-3

Next generation Hoosier educators scholarship fund

Sec. 3. (a) The next generation Hoosier educators scholarship fund is established for the purpose of providing scholarships to attract and retain eligible applicants to the teaching profession.

(b) The fund consists of the following:

(1) Appropriations made by the general assembly.

(2) Gifts, grants, devises, or bequests made to the commission to achieve the purposes of the fund.

(c) The commission shall administer the fund.

(d) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

(f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund but remains available to be used for the purposes of this chapter.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-4

Commission for higher education duties

Sec. 4. The commission shall do all the following:

(1) Develop a promotional program to inform and attract students to participate in the next generation Hoosier educators

scholarship program.

(2) Establish protocols and procedures concerning the application process for the program.

(3) Develop protocols, in consultation with accredited postsecondary educational institutions approved by the commission under section 10 of this chapter, to ensure successful completion of the program and assist graduates in completing the requirements of the program.

(4) Establish, in coordination with the governor's office, a guide for the management of the program by commission personnel.

(5) Designate personnel to manage the program.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-5

Scholarship qualifications

Sec. 5. (a) An applicant who is enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution after June 30, 2017, may qualify for a scholarship under this chapter. To qualify for a scholarship, an applicant must:

(1) apply for a scholarship on a form supplied by the commission;

(2) except as provided in subsection (b), have graduated from an Indiana nonaccredited nonpublic or accredited high school and either:

(A) graduated in the highest twenty percent (20%) of students in the applicant's high school graduating class; or

(B) received a score in the top twentieth percentile on the SAT or ACT examination;

(3) have participated in school activities and community service activities during high school;

(4) have applied to and been accepted for enrollment in an accredited postsecondary educational institution approved by the commission under section 10 of this chapter;

(5) agree in writing to:

(A) obtain a license to teach under IC 20-28-5; and

(B) teach for at least five (5) consecutive years in a public school or an eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) in Indiana after graduating with a baccalaureate degree from the accredited postsecondary educational institution described in subdivision (4); and

(6) meet any other criteria established by the commission.

(b) A student who graduates from a nonaccredited nonpublic school must meet the requirement described in subsection (a)(2)(B) in order to meet the eligibility requirement described in subsection (a)(2).

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-6

Consideration of applications; priority to recent high school graduates

Sec. 6. The commission shall consider each application and determine the eligibility of the applicant for the scholarship. The commission shall give priority to recent high school graduates when selecting applicants.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-7

Contract requirements

Sec. 7. Before receiving a scholarship under this chapter, the applicant must enter into a contract with the commission agreeing to:

- (1) the terms and conditions described in section 5(a)(5) of this chapter; and
- (2) any other terms and conditions established by the commission.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-8

Amount of scholarship awards; limits; distribution

Sec. 8. (a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c), if an applicant meets the requirements under this chapter, the commission may award, for not more than four (4) academic years, a scholarship to the applicant in an amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) for each academic year that the applicant attends the accredited postsecondary educational institution approved by the commission under section 10 of this chapter.

(b) The commission may not do the following:

- (1) Award a scholarship under this chapter in an amount of more than a total of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to an individual applicant.
- (2) Award scholarships under this chapter to more than two hundred (200) new applicants each academic year.

(c) If the total amount to be distributed from the fund in a state fiscal year exceeds the amount available for distribution, the amount to be distributed to each eligible applicant shall be proportionately reduced so that the total reductions equal the amount of the excess.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-9

Standards to maintain eligibility; petition for exception; extenuating circumstances

Sec. 9. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the commission shall establish standards that a student must meet to remain eligible to receive a scholarship under this chapter. The standards must include the following:

- (1) Maintaining a cumulative minimum grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

(2) Enrolling in and completing at least fifteen (15) credit hours each semester or its equivalent.

(3) Any other requirements the commission considers necessary.

(b) The commission may allow a student who fails to meet the standards described in subsection (a) and is ineligible for an award during the next academic year to maintain eligibility if the student submits a petition to the commission in a manner prescribed by the commission so that the commission may make a determination that extenuating circumstances, as determined by the commission, prevented the student from meeting the standards described in subsection (a).

(c) If the commission grants a waiver under subsection (b), the commission may:

(1) place the student on probationary status; and

(2) establish additional requirements for the student.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-10

Approval of accredited postsecondary educational institutions; standards for teacher education

Sec. 10. (a) The commission may not award a scholarship under this chapter to an applicant unless the applicant has applied to and been accepted for enrollment in an accredited postsecondary educational institution approved by the commission under this section.

(b) The commission shall establish standards for teacher education that an accredited postsecondary educational institution must meet to receive approval by the commission under this section, including the:

(1) information an accredited postsecondary educational institution is required to submit to the commission regarding the institution's teacher education program; and

(2) criteria and standards for approval.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-11

Repayment of scholarship award; failure to complete teacher education

Sec. 11. An individual who:

(1) received a scholarship under this chapter;

(2) is no longer enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution approved by the commission under section 10 of this chapter; and

(3) did not receive a baccalaureate degree from an accredited postsecondary educational institution approved by the commission under section 10 of this chapter;

shall repay the amount of the scholarship awarded to the individual

under this chapter in a timely fashion, as determined by the commission.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-12

Repayment of scholarship award; failure to teach; petition for extension of time; waive repayment; agreement for collection of repayment

Sec. 12. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), if an individual:

(1) receives a scholarship under this chapter; and

(2) fails to teach in a public school or an eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) in Indiana for at least five (5) consecutive years as described in section 5(a)(5) of this chapter; the individual shall repay the total amount of the scholarship awarded to the individual under this chapter in a timely fashion. The total amount that an individual is required to repay shall be reduced by twenty percent (20%), as determined by the commission, for each consecutive year the individual teaches at a public school or eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7).

(b) The commission may extend the length of time in which an individual must complete the requirements of an agreement described in section 5(a)(5) of this chapter if the individual submits a petition to the commission in a manner prescribed by the commission and the commission makes a determination that extenuating circumstances, as determined by the commission, prevented the individual from timely meeting the requirements described in section 5(a)(5) of this chapter.

(c) The commission may waive repayment under subsection (a) if the individual has been declared to be totally and permanently disabled under 34 CFR 685.213.

(d) The commission may enter into an agreement with the department of state revenue established by IC 6-8.1-2-1 or another third party vendor to assist in the enforcement of subsection (a) and section 11 of this chapter.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-13

Same school not required for teaching requirement

Sec. 13. An individual who receives a scholarship under this chapter is not required to teach at the same public school or eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) in Indiana for five (5) consecutive years.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-14

Administered as financial aid award

Sec. 14. The commission shall administer the scholarship awarded

under this chapter as a financial aid award.
As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-15

Other scholarships or forms of financial aid; conditions

Sec. 15. (a) Subject to subsection (c), the amount of a scholarship awarded under this chapter may not be reduced because the student receives other scholarships or forms of financial aid.

(b) Except as otherwise provided under law and subject to subsection (c), the amount of any other state financial aid received by a student may not be reduced because the student receives a scholarship under this chapter.

(c) The total amount of scholarships or other financial aid a student receives may not exceed the total amount of expenses to attend the accredited postsecondary educational institution, including tuition, room, board, and other fees.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-16

Scholarship subject to appropriation

Sec. 16. An applicant is eligible to receive a scholarship under this chapter only if an appropriation has been made to carry out the specific purposes of this chapter.

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-17

Records; report

Sec. 17. (a) The commission shall maintain complete and accurate records in implementing the next generation Hoosier educators scholarship fund established by section 3 of this chapter, including records of the following:

- (1) The receipt, disbursement, and uses of money from the fund.
- (2) The number of applications for the next generation Hoosier educators scholarship.
- (3) The number and amount of next generation Hoosier educators scholarships that have been provided by the commission.
- (4) Any other information collected concerning the fund or next generation Hoosier educators scholarships awarded under this chapter.

(b) Not later than November 1, 2017, and each November 1 thereafter, the commission shall submit a report to the governor and, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, to the general assembly summarizing the records described in subsection (a).

As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.

IC 21-12-16-18

Adopt rules

Sec. 18. The commission may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2
necessary to carry out this chapter.
As added by P.L.105-2016, SEC.1.