

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1291

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIPS; AMENDING CHAPTER 43, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE
2 ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-4305, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADULT
3 DEGREE COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIP AND RELATED PROVISIONS AND TO REQUIRE THE
4 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES.
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6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Chapter 43, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
8 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
9 ignated as Section 33-4305, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

10 33-4305. ADULT DEGREE COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIP -- RULEMAKING. (1) The
11 purposes of this section are to:

12 (a) Increase the number of Idaho citizens who have a postsecondary de-
13 gree or credential necessary to meet future workforce needs;

14 (b) Recognize that one (1) of the many challenges adults face as they
15 return to college is financing their education;

16 (c) Provide access to eligible Idaho postsecondary education through
17 funding to remove financial barriers; and

18 (d) Incentivize students to complete a postsecondary education degree
19 or certificate.

20 (2) For the purposes of this section:

21 (a) "Adult degree completion scholarship" means the scholarship pro-
22 gram described in this section and in the rules promulgated by the state
23 board.

24 (b) "Educational costs" means the dollar amount determined annually
25 by the state board of education as necessary for student tuition, fees,
26 books and other expenses reasonably related to attendance at an eligi-
27 ble Idaho postsecondary educational institution.

28 (c) "Eligible institution" means an Idaho public postsecondary organi-
29 zation governed or supervised by the state board, a board of trustees of
30 a community college established pursuant to chapter 21, title 33, Idaho
31 Code, or the state board of professional-technical education.

32 (d) "Eligible student" means a student who:

33 (i) Is an Idaho resident as defined in section 33-3717B, Idaho
34 Code;

35 (ii) Is enrolled in or has applied to an eligible institution;

36 (iii) Is a postsecondary undergraduate student who has not previ-
37 ously completed an undergraduate degree; and

38 (iv) Is an undergraduate reentry student who has experienced a gap
39 of three (3) years or more in the pursuit of an undergraduate de-
40 gree.

41 (e) "State board" means the state board of education.

1 (3) The state board shall promulgate rules to determine student eligi-
2 bility, academic and financial eligibility, a process for eligible students
3 to apply, amount of awards, how eligible students will be selected and when
4 the awards will be made, as well as other rules necessary for the administra-
5 tion of this section.

6 (4) The adult degree completion scholarship award shall not exceed the
7 actual educational costs at the eligible institution that the student at-
8 tends. The amount of scholarship shall not exceed the educational costs es-
9 tablished by the state board.

10 (5) Award payments shall be made annually to an eligible institution.
11 In no instance may the entire amount of an award be paid to or on behalf of any
12 student in advance.

13 (6) If an eligible student becomes ineligible for a scholarship under
14 the provisions of this chapter, or if a student discontinues attendance
15 before the end of any semester, quarter, term or equivalent covered by the
16 award after receiving payment under this chapter, then the eligible institu-
17 tion shall remit, up to the amount of any payments made under this program,
18 any prorated tuition or fee balances to the state board.

19 (7) There is hereby created an account in the state treasury to be des-
20 ignated the adult degree completion scholarship program account.

21 (a) The account shall consist of moneys appropriated to the account by
22 the legislature, moneys contributed to the account from other sources
23 and the earnings on such moneys. The executive director of the state
24 board may receive on behalf of the state board any moneys or real or per-
25 sonal property donated, bequeathed, devised or conditionally granted
26 to the state board of education for purposes of providing funding for
27 such account. Moneys received directly or derived from the sale of such
28 property shall be deposited by the state treasurer in the account.

29 (b) Earnings from moneys in the account or specified gifts shall be dis-
30 tributed annually to the state board to implement the adult degree com-
31 pletion scholarship program.

32 (c) All moneys deposited in the account and earnings on such moneys are
33 hereby perpetually appropriated to the state board for the purpose of
34 implementing the adult degree completion scholarship program. All ex-
35 penditures from the account shall be paid out in warrants drawn by the
36 state controller upon presentation of the proper vouchers.

37 (d) Pending use, surplus moneys in the account shall be invested by the
38 state treasurer in the same manner as provided in section 67-1210, Idaho
39 Code. Interest earned on the investments shall be returned to the ac-
40 count.

41 (8) The effectiveness of the adult degree completion scholarship pro-
42 gram will be evaluated by the state board on a regular basis. This evaluation
43 will include annual data collection as well as longer-term evaluations.