

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 35

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIPS; AMENDING CHAPTER 43, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY
2 THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-4305, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE
3 ADULT POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIP, TO PROVIDE FOR PURPOSES OF
4 SPECIFIED LAW, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO PROVIDE FOR RULEMAKING, TO PROVIDE
5 FOR PREFERENCES, TO PROVIDE FOR RESTRICTIONS ON THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
6 AMOUNT, TO PROVIDE FOR AWARD PAYMENTS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE REMITTANCE OF
7 PAYMENTS BY INSTITUTIONS TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UNDER CERTAIN
8 CONDITIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY UNDER CERTAIN
9 CONDITIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE
10 EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM.
11

12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

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

16 33-4305. ADULT POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIP. (1) The pur-
17 poses of this section are to:

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

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

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

24 (d) Incentivize students to complete a postsecondary education degree
25 or certificate.

26 (2) For the purposes of this section:

27 (a) "Adult postsecondary completion scholarship" means the scholar-
28 ship program described in this section and in the rules promulgated by
29 the state board of education for the implementation of this section.

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

34 (c) "Eligible institution" shall be defined in the same manner as pro-
35 vided in section 33-4303(2) (b), Idaho Code.

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

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

39 (ii) Is enrolled in or has applied to an eligible institution as
40 either a full-time or part-time student;

41 (iii) Is a postsecondary undergraduate student who has not previ-
42 ously completed an undergraduate certificate or degree;

1 (iv) Is a postsecondary undergraduate student who has earned no
2 fewer than twenty-four (24) postsecondary technical or academic
3 credits;

4 (v) Is an undergraduate reentry student who has experienced a gap
5 of three (3) years or more in the pursuit of postsecondary credits;
6 and

7 (vi) Is pursuing a program of study leading to completion of a cer-
8 tificate or degree.

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

10 (3) The state board shall promulgate rules to determine student eli-
11 gibility, academic and financial eligibility, a process for eligible stu-
12 dents to apply, how eligible students will be selected, how the amount of the
13 awards will be set, when the awards will be made, a process for assessing and
14 applying credit for workplace experience to a certificate or degree program,
15 as well as other rules necessary for the administration of this section.

16 (4) Preference will be granted to military veterans, including members
17 of the national guard and reserves who are no longer eligible for other state
18 or federal education tuition assistance.

19 (5) The adult postsecondary completion scholarship award shall not ex-
20 ceed the actual educational costs at the eligible institution that the stu-
21 dent attends. The amount of scholarship shall not exceed the educational
22 costs established by the state board.

23 (6) Award payments shall be made to an eligible institution. In no in-
24 stance may the entire amount of an award be paid to or on behalf of any student
25 in advance.

26 (7) If an eligible student becomes ineligible for a scholarship under
27 the provisions of this chapter, or if a student discontinues attendance
28 before the end of any semester, quarter, term or equivalent covered by the
29 award after receiving payment under this chapter, then the eligible institu-
30 tion shall remit, up to the amount of any payments made under this program,
31 any prorated tuition or fee balances to the state board.

32 (8) If funding for scholarship renewal is not appropriated, eligible
33 students will receive an extension of eligibility commensurate with the pe-
34 riod of time for which there is no funding for the program.

35 (9) Funding appropriated to the state board of education for the adult
36 postsecondary completion scholarship program may be used for allowable ad-
37 ministrative costs to include, but not be limited to, operating expenses for
38 the implementation and maintenance of an application program, operating ex-
39 penses to administer the program, personnel costs necessary to administer
40 the program and costs related to promoting awareness of the program.

41 (10) The effectiveness of the adult postsecondary completion scholar-
42 ship program will be evaluated by the state board on an annual basis. This
43 evaluation will include annual data collection as well as longer-term evalu-
44 ations.