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SENATE BILL NO. 1214

Senate Amendments in [] - February 10, 2009

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 23-38.10:10 of the Code of Virginia, relating to eligibility for the Two-Year College Transfer Grant.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Senator Deeds

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 23-38.10:10 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 23-38.10:10. Eligibility criteria.

A. Under this program, grants shall be made to or on behalf of eligible Virginia domiciles who (i) have received an associate degree *or earned 60 credit hours [in a university parallel program] towards a four-year degree* at a Virginia two-year public institution of higher education, (ii) have enrolled in a Virginia four-year public or private institution of higher education by the fall following the award of the associate degree *or completion of 60 credit hours*, (iii) have applied for financial aid, and (iv) have financial need, defined by an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of no more than \$8,000 as calculated by the federal government using the family's financial information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Only students who maintained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent while enrolled ~~in an associate degree program~~ at a Virginia two-year public institution of higher education shall be eligible to receive a grant under this chapter.

B. Eligibility for a higher education grant under this program shall be limited to three academic years or 70 credit hours and shall be used only for undergraduate collegiate work in educational programs other than those providing religious training or theological education. To remain eligible for a grant under this program, a student must continue to demonstrate financial need, as defined in this section, maintain a 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent, and make satisfactory academic progress towards a degree.

C. Individuals who have failed to meet the federal requirement to register for the Selective Service shall not be eligible to receive grants pursuant to this chapter. However, a person who has failed to register for the Selective Service shall not be denied a right, privilege, or benefit under this section if (i) the requirement to so register has terminated or become inapplicable to the person and (ii) the person shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the failure to register was not a knowing and willful failure to register.

[2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed by the 2009 Regular Session of the General Assembly, which becomes law.]

ENGROSSED

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