

**SB0834/544836/1**

BY: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 834

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Educational Excellence Awards” and substitute “Guaranteed Access Grants”; in line 5, strike “an Educational Excellence Award” and substitute “a Guaranteed Access Grant”; strike beginning with the second “an” in line 6 down through “Award” in line 7 and substitute “a Guaranteed Access Grant”; and in line 15, strike “18–307” and substitute “18–303”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 2 and 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 10 on page 2 through line 10 on page 3, inclusive, and substitute:

“18–303.”

(a) Subject to subsection [(c)] (D) of this section, each recipient of an Educational Excellence Award shall:

(1) Be accepted for admission in the regular undergraduate program at an eligible institution or be enrolled in a 2–year associate degree program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution;

(2) Be a resident of this State;

(3) Demonstrate to the Office a definite financial need; and

(4) Accept any other conditions attached to the award.

(Over)

(b) Each recipient of a Guaranteed Access Grant shall:

(1) Have attained a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent at the end of the first semester of the senior year in high school and have completed high school or, failing to do so, on the recommendation of the recipient's high school principal, provide evidence satisfactory to the Office of extenuating circumstances;

(2) Begin college within 1 year of completing high school or, failing to do so, provide evidence satisfactory to the Office of extenuating circumstances;

(3) Be under the age of 22 years at the time of receiving the first award;

(4) Have successfully completed a college preparatory program in high school;

(5) Enroll in college as a full-time student;

(6) [Have] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, HAVE** an annual family income below a poverty index determined by the Commission; and

(7) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may establish.

**(C) TO DETERMINE THE ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME ELIGIBILITY OF AN APPLICANT FOR A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT, THE OFFICE MAY NOT CONSIDER AN AMOUNT RECEIVED BY THE APPLICANT AS AN EARNED INCOME CREDIT UNDER § 32 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.**

**[(c)] (D) A student in grade 9 or grade 10 who applies and qualifies for a Guaranteed Access Grant on the basis of financial need as established by the Commission shall prequalify for a Guaranteed Access Grant to be used at the time of**

enrollment in an institution of higher education by agreeing in writing, as a secondary and undergraduate student, to:

- (1) Satisfy the attendance policy of the applicable school;
- (2) Refrain from substance abuse;
- (3) Provide information required by the Commission or the State Board of Education;
- (4) Complete and file on a timely basis applications for federal student aid for each year that the student plans to enroll in postsecondary education;
- (5) Participate in the College Readiness Outreach Program established in § 18-303.1 of this subtitle until the student graduates from high school and matriculates at an institution of higher education; and
- (6) Satisfy any other program requirements set by the Office, the Commission, the State Board of Education, or the State Department of Education.”.