

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 190, As Amended

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 CONSEQUENCES
7 IF A STUDENT DISCONTINUES ATTENDANCE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXTENSION OF
8 ELIGIBILITY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EVALUATION
9 OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM.
10

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

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

15 33-4305. ADULT POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIP. (1) The pur-
16 poses of this section are to:

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

19 (b) Recognize the many challenges adults face as they return to col-
20 lege, including financing their education and the need to attend part
21 time while remaining in the workforce;

22 (c) Provide access to eligible Idaho postsecondary education through
23 funding for part-time attendance to remove financial barriers; and

24 (d) Incentivize nontraditional students to complete a postsecondary
25 education degree 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 with a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or more, on a
4 4.0 scale;

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

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

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

11 (3) The state board shall promulgate rules to specify student eligibil-
12 ity, academic and financial criteria, an application and selection process
13 for eligible students, how the amount of the awards will be set, when the
14 awards will be made, a process for assessing and applying credit for work-
15 place experience to a certificate or degree program, as well as other rules
16 necessary for the administration of this section.

17 (4) Preference may be granted to military veterans, including members
18 of the national guard and reserves.

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 the 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, then the eligible institution shall remit the amount of payment re-
30 ceived under this section for the courses not completed by the student,
31 regardless of whether the eligible institution's deadline to drop a course
32 has passed, to the opportunity scholarship program account created under
33 section 33-4303, Idaho Code. Eligible students who discontinue attendance
34 shall become ineligible to participate in the adult postsecondary comple-
35 tion scholarship in the future. Participating students may request a leave
36 of absence for military service or medical reasons.

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

40 (9) The effectiveness of the adult postsecondary completion scholar-
41 ship program will be evaluated by the state board on an annual basis. This
42 evaluation will include annual data collection as well as longer-term evalu-
43 ations including, but not limited to, the type of certificate or degree pro-
44 gram being pursued by each scholarship recipient in relation to jobs deter-
45 mined to be high-demand jobs in Idaho.