AN ACT
RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIPS; AMENDING CHAPTER 43, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY
THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-4305, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE
ADULT POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIP, TO PROVIDE FOR PURPOSES OF
SPECIFIED LAW, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO PROVIDE FOR RULEMAKING, TO PROVIDE
FOR PREFERENCES, TO PROVIDE FOR RESTRICTIONS ON THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
AMOUNT, TO PROVIDE FOR AWARD PAYMENTS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES
IF A STUDENT DISCONTINUES ATTENDANCE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXTENSION OF
ELIGIBILITY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EVALUATION
OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM.

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

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

33-4305. ADULT POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIP. (1) The pur-
poses of this section are:
(a) Increase the number of Idaho citizens who have a postsecondary de-
gree or credential necessary to meet future workforce needs;
(b) Recognize the many challenges adults face as they return to col-
lege, including financing their education and the need to attend part
time while remaining in the workforce;
(c) Provide access to eligible Idaho postsecondary education through
funding for part-time attendance to remove financial barriers; and
(d) Incentivize nontraditional students to complete a postsecondary
education degree or certificate.
(2) For the purposes of this section:
(a) "Adult postsecondary completion scholarship" means the scholar-
ship program described in this section and in the rules promulgated by
the state board of education for the implementation of this section.
(b) "Educational costs" means the dollar amount determined annually
by the state board of education as necessary for student tuition, fees, books and other expenses reasonably related to attendance at an eligi-
able Idaho postsecondary educational institution.
(c) "Eligible institution" shall be defined in the same manner as pro-
vided in section 33-4303(2)(b), Idaho Code.
(d) "Eligible student" means a student who:
   (i) Is an Idaho resident as defined in section 33-3717B, Idaho
   Code;
   (ii) Is enrolled in or has applied to an eligible institution as
       either a full-time or part-time student;
   (iii) Is a postsecondary undergraduate student who has not previ-
        ously completed an undergraduate certificate or degree;
(iv) Is a postsecondary undergraduate student who has earned no fewer than twenty-four (24) postsecondary technical or academic credits with a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or more, on a 4.0 scale;
(v) Is an undergraduate reentry student who has experienced a gap of three (3) years or more in the pursuit of postsecondary credits; and
(vi) Is pursuing a program of study leading to completion of a certificate or degree.

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

(3) The state board shall promulgate rules to specify student eligibility, academic and financial criteria, an application and selection process for eligible students, how the amount of the awards will be set, when the awards will be made, a process for assessing and applying credit for workplace experience to a certificate or degree program, as well as other rules necessary for the administration of this section.

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

(5) The adult postsecondary completion scholarship award shall not exceed the actual educational costs at the eligible institution that the student attends. The amount of the scholarship shall not exceed the educational costs established by the state board.

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

(7) If an eligible student becomes ineligible for a scholarship under the provisions of this chapter, or if a student discontinues attendance before the end of any semester, quarter, term or equivalent covered by the award, then the eligible institution shall remit the amount of payment received under this section for the courses not completed by the student, regardless of whether the eligible institution's deadline to drop a course has passed, to the opportunity scholarship program account created under section 33-4303, Idaho Code. Eligible students who discontinue attendance shall become ineligible to participate in the adult postsecondary completion scholarship in the future. Participating students may request a leave of absence for military service or medical reasons.

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

(9) The effectiveness of the adult postsecondary completion scholarship program will be evaluated by the state board on an annual basis. This evaluation will include annual data collection as well as longer-term evaluations including, but not limited to, the type of certificate or degree program being pursued by each scholarship recipient in relation to jobs determined to be high-demand jobs in Idaho.