

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1270

FINAL READING

Introduced by Murman, 38.

Read first time January 16, 2024

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Door to College Scholarship Act; to
2 amend sections 85-3202, 85-3204, and 85-3205, Revised Statutes
3 Supplement, 2023; to redefine a term; to change provisions relating
4 to the powers and duties of an eligible postsecondary educational
5 institution and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary
6 Education under the act; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the
7 original sections.

8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 85-3202, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is
2 amended to read:

3 85-3202 For purposes of the Door to College Scholarship Act:

4 (1) Award means a grant of money under the act by the commission in
5 the form of a Door to College Scholarship to an eligible student for
6 educational expenses;

7 (2) Award year means the period beginning on July 1 through the
8 following June 30;

9 (3) Commission means the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary
10 Education;

11 (4) Educational expenses means student costs for tuition, mandatory
12 fees, other education-related fees, room and board, books, and other
13 costs related to a student's education;

14 (5) Eligible postsecondary educational institution means a public or
15 private postsecondary educational institution:

16 (a) Located in Nebraska;

17 (b) Primarily engaged in the instruction of students;

18 (c) Satisfying state statutory requirements relating to the approval
19 and licensure of schools, colleges, and universities and maintaining
20 accreditation by an accrediting organization recognized by the United
21 States Department of Education;

22 (d) Offering courses of instruction in regularly scheduled classes
23 to regularly enrolled undergraduate students who reside in Nebraska and
24 have received a high school diploma or the equivalent; and

25 (e) Which has adopted, and has available for inspection, award
26 refund and repayment policies;

27 (6) Eligible student means an undergraduate student who:

28 (a) Graduated from high school from an accredited education program
29 at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center operated and utilized in
30 compliance with state law or graduated from an approved or accredited
31 public, private, denominational, or parochial school ~~within one year~~

1 after being discharged from a youth rehabilitation and treatment center
2 operated and utilized in compliance with state law;

3 (b) Is enrolled in an eligible postsecondary educational
4 institution;

5 (c) Has applied for federal financial aid through the Free
6 Application for Federal Student Aid for the applicable award year;

7 (d) Is a resident student who is domiciled in Nebraska as provided
8 by section 85-502; and

9 (e) Complies with all other provisions of the Door to College
10 Scholarship Act and any rules and regulations adopted and promulgated
11 pursuant to the act;

12 (7) Full-time status means enrollment in at least twenty-four
13 semester credit hours, thirty-six quarter credit hours, or nine hundred
14 clock hours per award year;

15 (8) Part-time status means enrollment in at least twelve semester
16 credit hours, eighteen quarter credit hours, or four hundred fifty clock
17 hours per award year; and

18 (9) Undergraduate student means an individual who has not earned a
19 first baccalaureate or professional degree and is enrolled in a
20 postsecondary educational program which leads to, or is creditable
21 toward, a first baccalaureate degree, associate degree, certificate,
22 diploma, or the equivalent.

23 Sec. 2. Section 85-3204, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is
24 amended to read:

25 85-3204 (1) Eligible postsecondary educational institutions, acting
26 as agents of the commission, shall:

27 (a) Receive and process applications for awards under the Door to
28 College Scholarship Act;

29 (b) Determine eligibility of students based on criteria set forth in
30 the act, except that such institutions shall not be responsible for
31 determining if a student meets the requirements of subdivision (6)(a) of

1 section 85-3202; and

2 (c) No later than the application deadline set by the commission,
3 make recommendations to the commission for awards to eligible students,
4 including the name and social security number of each eligible student.

5 (2) An award under the Door to College Scholarship Act shall not be
6 used by a postsecondary educational institution to reduce institutional
7 scholarships, grants, or tuition or fee waivers that a student would
8 otherwise be eligible to receive if such student did not receive an award
9 under the act.

10 Sec. 3. Section 85-3205, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is
11 amended to read:

12 85-3205 (1) Within thirty days after receiving recommendations
13 pursuant to section 85-3204, the commission shall review the recommended
14 awards for compliance with the Door to College Scholarship Act and any
15 rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to the act and
16 notify each eligible postsecondary educational institution of the
17 approval or disapproval of recommended awards.

18 (2) For purposes of such approval or disapproval of recommended
19 awards, the submission of an application by a student for a scholarship
20 pursuant to the Door to College Scholarship Act shall authorize the
21 Department of Health and Human Services to verify for the commission the
22 applicant's name and previous status at a youth rehabilitation and
23 treatment center in order to determine a student's eligibility under
24 subdivision (6)(a) of section 85-3202.

25 (3) ~~(2)~~ The commission shall distribute to each eligible
26 postsecondary educational institution the total award amount approved for
27 eligible students at such institution. The eligible postsecondary
28 educational institution shall act as an agent of the commission to
29 disburse the awards directly to eligible students during the award year.

30 Sec. 4. Original sections 85-3202, 85-3204, and 85-3205, Revised
31 Statutes Supplement, 2023, are repealed.