

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 20

Approved by the Governor March 5, 2009

Introduced by Harms, 48.

FOR AN ACT relating to the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act; to amend sections 85-2105 and 85-2106, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to the powers and duties of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education with respect to scholarships awarded under the act and a report requirement; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

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

Section 1. Section 85-2105, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

85-2105 (1) An applicant for the Access College Early Scholarship Program shall complete an application form developed and provided by the commission and shall forward the form to his or her guidance counselor. The guidance counselor shall verify the student's eligibility under the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act and shall forward the information to the commission for review within fifteen days following receipt of the form from the student. Notification of tuition and mandatory fees to be accrued by the student shall be provided to the commission by the student, high school, or qualified postsecondary educational institution as determined by the commission.

(2) The commission shall review the application and verify the student's eligibility under the act. The commission shall notify the student and the student's guidance counselor of the verification of eligibility and the estimated award amount in writing within thirty days following receipt of the form from the student's guidance counselor. The scholarship award shall equal the lesser of tuition and mandatory fees accrued by the student after any discounts applicable to such student from the qualified postsecondary educational institution or the tuition and mandatory fees that would have been accrued by the student for the same number of credit hours if the student were taking the course as a full-time, resident, undergraduate student from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The commission shall forward such amount directly to the qualified postsecondary educational institution as payment of such student's tuition and mandatory fees.

(3) The commission shall make such payments in the order the applications are received, except that by the commission may limit the number of scholarships awarded in each term. until funds are inadequate to fulfill any remaining scholarships.

(4) ~~There is no~~ The commission may limit on the number of scholarships a student may receive, under the act.

(5) For any student receiving a scholarship pursuant to the act for tuition and mandatory fees, the qualified postsecondary educational institution receiving the payment shall report either the student's grade for the course or the student's failure to complete the course to the commission within thirty days after the end of the course or within one hundred eighty days after receipt of a payment pursuant to the act if the course for which the scholarship was awarded does not have a specified ending date. The commission shall keep the identity of students receiving scholarships confidential, except as necessary to comply with the requirements of the act.

Sec. 2. Section 85-2106, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

85-2106 The commission shall prepare a ~~biennial~~ an annual report on scholarships awarded pursuant to the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act and shall submit the report to the Clerk of the Legislature. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the number and amount of scholarships awarded, the postsecondary educational institutions attended by scholarship recipients, and information regarding the success of scholarship recipients in the courses for which the scholarships were awarded.

Sec. 3. Original sections 85-2105 and 85-2106, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.