

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 1379

Approved by the Governor March 30, 2000

Introduced by Beutler, 28

AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; to adopt the Minority Scholarship Program Act; to eliminate provisions relating to a scholarship program; and to outright repeal section 85-1,125, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

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

Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Minority Scholarship Program Act.

Sec. 2. (1) The Legislature finds that the State of Nebraska has a compelling interest to provide access to the University of Nebraska, state colleges, and the community colleges for Black, American Indian, and Hispanic minority students and that the financial requirements of postsecondary education often represent major obstacles to such students because of the lack of financial resources available to them.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature:

(a) To appropriate funds to support a minority scholarship program to serve as a temporary measure for the purpose of eliminating the statistical disparity between the representation of full-time Black, American Indian, and Hispanic minority students in the undergraduate population of the University of Nebraska, the state colleges, and the community colleges and the representation of such minority students in the student population of the primary and secondary schools of this state and for the purpose of developing a more racially diverse student body at such public institutions;

(b) That Black, American Indian, and Hispanic minority students attending the University of Nebraska, a state college, or a community college will be eligible to participate in the scholarship program supported pursuant to the Minority Scholarship Program Act; and

(c) That all funds appropriated by the Legislature for minority scholarships at the University of Nebraska, the state colleges, and the community colleges shall be used in coordination with private donations for such scholarships and in consultation with the major donors thereof and in coordination with federal grant funds available to minority students at such institutions so as to maximize the level of benefits and accomplish the purposes of the act.

Sec. 3. (1) All funds appropriated by the Legislature for the Minority Scholarship Program Act shall be used to support endowed scholarship funds which shall be held, managed, and invested as authorized by section 72-1246 with only the income therefrom expended for scholarships.

(2) The purpose of such endowed scholarship funds is to provide total or partial undergraduate scholarships for tuition, fees, board and room, and books at all campuses of the University of Nebraska, the state colleges, and the community colleges to full-time undergraduate students from Black, American Indian, and Hispanic minority groups which are underrepresented in the student population of such public institutions and who cannot afford such educational expenses due to lack of financial resources available to them.

Sec. 4. (1) Funds appropriated in years prior to fiscal year 2000-01 for the minority scholarship program supported pursuant to section 85-1,125 as such section existed prior to the effective date of this act shall be used, administered, and distributed only for the benefit of students at the University of Nebraska in such manner as the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska shall determine.

(2) Funds appropriated for fiscal year 2000-01 and each fiscal year thereafter shall be used for the benefit of students pursuant to the Minority Scholarship Program Act at the University of Nebraska, the state colleges, and the community colleges.

Sec. 5. Funds appropriated for the Minority Scholarship Program Act for the benefit of students at:

(1) The University of Nebraska and students attending any community college who are enrolled in general academic transfer courses, as defined in section 85-1503, with the intention of transferring to the University of Nebraska, shall be used, administered, and invested in such manner as the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, in consultation with the boards of governors of each participating community college, shall determine; and

(2) The state colleges shall be used, administered, and invested in

such manner as the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges shall determine.

Sec. 6. Awards of scholarships under the Minority Scholarship Program Act shall be determined by a committee selected by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, and the community college boards of governors. The committee shall include members of underrepresented minority groups and private donors to the endowed scholarship funds. Awards shall be consistent with the intent stated in the act.

Sec. 7. The following section is outright repealed: Section 85-1,125, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.