

HB125 INTRODUCED



1 HB125
2 TBSCB11-1
3 By Representative Collins
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26
6 PFD: 07-Jan-26



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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, the ReEngage Alabama Grant
6 Program administered by the Alabama Commission on
7 Higher Education provides grant award payments to adult
8 learners pursuing a first associate or baccalaureate
9 degree to assist them in earning short-term
10 credentials.

11 This bill would decrease the minimum age of an
12 adult learner from 25 to 22 years of age.

13 This bill would also include as an eligible
14 student an individual who, in addition to other
15 specific criteria, has not previously received a grant
16 award and is pursuing a first baccalaureate degree
17 following a two-year stop-out period after receiving
18 his or her first associate degree.

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21 A BILL

22 TO BE ENTITLED

23 AN ACT

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25 Relating to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education
26 and the ReEngage Alabama Grant Program; to amend Sections
27 16-33D-3 and 16-33D-6, Code of Alabama 1975, to decrease the
28 minimum age of an adult learner from 25 to 22 years of age;

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29 and to provide further for the definition of an eligible
30 student.

31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

32 Section 1. Sections 16-33D-3 and 16-33D-6 of the Code
33 of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

34 "§16-33D-3

35 For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms
36 have the following meanings:

37 (1) ACADEMIC TERM. A portion of an academic year, such
38 as a quarter or semester, during which an institution of
39 higher education holds classes including, but not limited to,
40 Fall, Winter, Spring, or Summer semesters.

41 (2) ADULT LEARNER. An individual who is ~~25~~ 22 years of
42 age or older and returning to college.

43 (3) ALABAMA RESIDENT. An individual who has been
44 classified as an in-state resident by an authorized
45 institution, who has established residency within this state
46 for at least a 12-month period prior to the beginning of the
47 term for which financial assistance is requested, and who is
48 in this state for other than a temporary purpose.

49 (4) APPROVED INSTITUTION. A state-supported institution
50 of higher education or a private nonprofit institution of
51 higher education that satisfies all of the following:

52 a. Is accredited by the Southern Association of
53 Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, or the Council on
54 Occupational Education.

55 b. Is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid
56 program funds.



57 c. Maintains its primary headquarters in Alabama.

58 (5) AUTHORIZED INSTITUTION. An approved institution
59 that files a signed agreement with the commission to comply
60 with all rules and procedures of the ReEngage Alabama Grant
61 Program as provided by the commission.

62 (6) COMMISSION. The Alabama Commission on Higher
63 Education.

64 (7) CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT. When an adult learner is
65 making academic progress toward degree completion without a
66 stop-out in enrollment of more than one consecutive semester
67 or quarter, such as Fall/Winter to Spring, Spring to
68 Summer/Fall, or Summer to Fall.

69 (8) ELIGIBLE PROGRAM. A nonsectarian, secular
70 educational program that is aligned with Alabama's high demand
71 workforce needs adopted by the Alabama Committee on
72 Credentialing and Career Pathways.

73 (9) ELIGIBLE STUDENT. An individual who completed the
74 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) ~~✓~~ and who is
75 in either of the following:

76 a. In pursuit of his or her first associate or
77 baccalaureate degree, ~~who~~ satisfies the criteria set out in
78 this chapter, and ~~who~~ is found to be eligible by rules adopted
79 by the commission.

80 b. In pursuit of his or her first baccalaureate degree
81 following a two-year stop-out period after receiving his or
82 her first associate degree and did not previously receive a
83 grant award, satisfies the criteria set out in this chapter,
84 and is found to be eligible by rules adopted by the



85 commission.

86 (10) GRANT. A financial award by the State of Alabama
87 to defray the cost of tuition and mandatory fees to an
88 eligible adult learner who is currently enrolled in an
89 authorized institution.

90 (11) PROGRAM. The ReEngage Alabama Grant Program
91 created by this chapter.

92 (12) YEAR. An academic year that shall be divided into
93 Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer terms. The term does not mean
94 calendar or fiscal year.

95 "§16-33D-6

96 (a) The program shall be used to provide grant award
97 payments for eligible adult learners up to the maximum award
98 amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for universities and
99 one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for community
100 colleges per academic semester for a full-time student.
101 Proportional awards shall be given for students taking six to
102 11 hours and students enrolled in less common academic terms,
103 such as quarters, Summer terms, and intersessions.

104 (b) (1) Each grant shall be renewable for the number of
105 terms normally required by the institution for the course of
106 study in which the adult learner is enrolled as long as the
107 student is continuously enrolled until the student receives—an
108 either of the following:

109 a. His or her first associate degree or—a baccalaureate
110 degree.

111 b. His or her first baccalaureate degree following a
112 two-year stop-out period after receiving his or her first



113 associate degree without previously receiving a grant award.

114 (2) The commission shall grant a renewal upon
115 verification that the student remains an eligible student.

116 (c) Grant award payments shall be distributed directly
117 to the approved institution on behalf of the student during
118 the applicable year.

119 (d) The requirements of this chapter are contingent
120 upon available funding for the program.

121 (e) The commission shall determine the necessary
122 procedures for awarding grant award payments if the number of
123 eligible applicants and recipients exceeds available funding.

124 (f) Any funds appropriated to the program shall be
125 nonreverting.

126 (g) A percentage of the grant program's appropriations
127 may be expended for the operation and maintenance of the
128 program.

129 (h) Each authorized institution that enrolls an adult
130 learner who is eligible for the tuition and mandatory fees
131 benefits provided by this program shall take necessary action
132 to ensure that the student is aware of all other benefits that
133 he or she may be entitled to under any other federal and state
134 educational benefits, and any student grant or scholarship. In
135 order to receive the benefits provided by this program, the
136 student shall take the necessary steps to utilize all of the
137 above benefits."

138 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
139 1, 2026.