

SB175 ENROLLED



1 6YXW3Z-2
2 By Senators Orr, Albritton, Livingston, Butler, Allen,
3 Waggoner, Roberts, Jones
4 RFD: Conference Committee on SB175
5 First Read: 05-Apr-23
6 2023 Regular Session



SB175 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 To establish the ReEngage Alabama Grant Program; to
4 provide grant award payments to eligible adult learners; to
5 provide eligibility standards, and to provide for
6 administration by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education;
7 relating to grants for short-term credentials; to establish
8 the Alabama Short-Term Credential Scholarship Program to
9 provide grants to Alabama residents to help them earn
10 short-term credentials; to determine eligible recipients; to
11 establish procedures for administering the program; to set
12 forth the process by which the program will be funded; and to
13 repeal the Alabama Apprenticeship Tax Credit Act commencing
14 with Section 40-18-422, Code of Alabama 1975.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

16 Section 1. This article shall be known and may be cited
17 as the ReEngage Alabama Grant Program.

18 Section 2. The purpose of the ReEngage Alabama Grant
19 Program is to do all of the following:

20 (1) Increase the number of Alabama adults with college
21 degrees.

22 (2) Encourage adults who have earned some college
23 credit hours to return to college, enroll, and complete a
24 college degree program that is connected with workforce
25 development needs and aligned with Alabama's high demand
26 occupations list.

27 (3) Provide financial assistance to adult learners of
28 the state for postsecondary education in the state.



SB175 Enrolled

29 Section 3. For the purposes of this article the
30 following terms have the following meanings:

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

35 (2) ADULT LEARNER. An individual who is 25 years of age
36 or older and returning to college.

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

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

46 a. Is accredited by the Southern Association of
47 Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, or the Council on
48 Occupational Education.

49 b. Is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid
50 program funds.

51 c. Maintains its primary headquarters in Alabama.

52 (5) AUTHORIZED INSTITUTION. An approved institution
53 that files a signed agreement with the commission to comply
54 with all rules and procedures of the ReEngage Alabama Grant
55 Program as provided by the commission.

56 (6) COMMISSION. The Alabama Commission on Higher



SB175 Enrolled

57 Education.

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

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

67 (9) ELIGIBLE STUDENT. An individual who completed the
68 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), who is in
69 pursuit of his or her first associate or baccalaureate degree,
70 who satisfies the criteria set out in this act, and who is
71 found to be eligible by rules adopted by the commission.

72 (10) GRANT. A financial award by the State of Alabama
73 to defray the cost of tuition and mandatory fees to an
74 eligible adult learner who is currently enrolled in an
75 authorized institution.

76 (11) PROGRAM. The ReEngage Alabama Grant Program
77 created by this act.

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

81 Section 4. (a) The program shall be administered by the
82 commission, which may adopt any rules necessary for the
83 administration of the program.

84 (b) The commission shall adopt standards for awarding



SB175 Enrolled

85 grant payments to an eligible adult learner who satisfies all
86 of the following:

87 (1) Is a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the
88 United States.

89 (2) Is a resident of Alabama.

90 (3) Has not attended a postsecondary education
91 institution for at least two years prior to their current
92 enrollment.

93 Section 5. To be eligible for the grant award, an
94 applicant shall satisfy all of the following:

95 (1) Be classified as an undergraduate student with the
96 completion of at least 36 credit hours for an associate degree
97 or at least 72 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree of a
98 college degree program that is connected with workforce
99 development needs and aligned with Alabama's high demand
100 occupations list adopted by the Alabama Committee on
101 Credentialing and Career Pathways.

102 (2) Show proof of residency.

103 (3) Have good academic standing as defined by the
104 institution.

105 (4) Has been accepted to or is enrolled as a full-time
106 or part-time student in an eligible program in an authorized
107 institution leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree
108 and has not attended a postsecondary education institution at
109 least two years prior.

110 (5) Satisfies continuing eligibility each term by
111 enrolling in six hours or more per term continuously as
112 established by the commission.



SB175 Enrolled

113 Section 6. (a) The program shall be used to provide
114 grant award payments for eligible adult learners up to the
115 maximum award amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for
116 universities and one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500)
117 for community colleges per academic semester for a full-time
118 student. Proportional awards shall be given for students
119 taking six to 11 hours and students enrolled in less common
120 academic terms, such as quarters, Summer terms, and
121 intersessions.

122 (b) Each grant shall be renewable for the number of
123 terms normally required by the institution for the course of
124 study in which the adult learner is enrolled as long as the
125 student is continuously enrolled until the student receives an
126 associate degree or a baccalaureate degree. The commission
127 shall grant a renewal upon verification that the student
128 remains an eligible student.

129 (c) Grant award payments shall be distributed directly
130 to the approved institution on behalf of the student during
131 the applicable year.

132 (d) The requirements of this act are contingent upon
133 available funding for the program.

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

137 (f) Any funds appropriated to the program shall be
138 nonreverting.

139 (g) A percentage of the grant program's appropriations
140 may be expended for the operation and maintenance of the



SB175 Enrolled

141 program.

142 (h) Each authorized institution that enrolls an adult
143 learner who is eligible for the tuition and mandatory fees
144 benefits provided by this program shall take necessary action
145 to ensure that the student is aware of all other benefits that
146 he or she may be entitled to under any other federal and state
147 educational benefits, and any student grant or scholarship. In
148 order to receive the benefits provided by this program, the
149 student shall take the necessary steps to utilize all of the
150 above benefits.

151 Section 7. (a) The commission shall provide an annual
152 report to the Chair of the House Ways and Means Education
153 Committee and the Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation
154 Education Committee to account for the use of funds and the
155 effectiveness of the grant program established under this
156 article.

157 (b) The commission shall consult with the Alabama
158 Commission on the Evaluation of Services to develop
159 performance metrics and other measures of success to include
160 in the annual report required pursuant to subsection (a).
161 During the 2027 Fiscal Year, the program shall undergo an
162 evaluation by the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of
163 Services to determine whether the program is impacting the
164 determined measures of success.

165 Section 8. This article shall be known and may be cited
166 as the Alabama Short-Term Credential Scholarship Program.

167 Section 9. The following words used in this article
168 have the following meanings.



SB175 Enrolled

169 (1) ELIGIBLE STUDENT. An Alabama resident who is
170 registered for or intends to register to take a short-term
171 credential program at an institution within the Alabama
172 Community College System.

173 (2) GRANT. A payment made to an institution within the
174 Alabama Community College System to be applied toward an
175 eligible student's qualifying educational expenses for a
176 short-term credential program.

177 (3) QUALIFYING EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES. Tuition, fees,
178 books, materials, and supplies required for or on behalf of an
179 eligible student by the Alabama Community College System
180 institution for participation in a short-term credential
181 program.

182 (4) SHORT-TERM CREDENTIAL PROGRAM. A program at an
183 Alabama Community College System institution that can be
184 completed in two semesters or less and that will lead to
185 in-demand career opportunities in the region in which the
186 community college where the course is taken is located. In
187 developing the short-term credential program, each community
188 college shall work with local businesses and regional
189 workforce councils and consult the regional and statewide
190 lists of in-demand occupations to determine the in-demand
191 careers and applicable curriculum.

192 Section 10. (a) There is hereby established a
193 short-term credential program that will provide grants to help
194 pay for qualifying educational expenses for eligible students
195 at any Alabama Community College System institution.

196 (b) An eligible student may receive a grant of up to



SB175 Enrolled

197 four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) that shall be paid
198 to the Alabama Community College System institution where the
199 eligible student enrolls in a short-term credential program
200 and shall be applied toward the eligible student's qualifying
201 educational expenses required to complete a credit or
202 non-credit short-term credential program that provides
203 training for in-demand careers in the relevant region.

204 (c) One-half of the grant shall be paid to the Alabama
205 Community College System institution within five days after
206 the eligible student's first day of class in the short-term
207 credential program, and the other one-half of the grant shall
208 be paid within five days after the eligible student's
209 completion of the short-term credential program. The second
210 one-half of the grant shall not be paid if the eligible
211 student does not complete the course, and in such a situation,
212 the eligible student shall be responsible for paying the
213 outstanding balance of any tuition or other fees owed to the
214 Alabama Community College System institution at which the
215 course was taken. If the eligible student does not complete
216 the short-term credential program within one calendar year
217 from the first day of the program's commencement, that
218 individual must repay the State of Alabama the initial
219 one-half of the grant that was paid to the Alabama Community
220 College System institution on his or her behalf.

221 (d) An eligible student who receives a grant under this
222 article may not receive another grant until one calendar year
223 after he or she completes the short-term credential program
224 for which the prior grant was awarded.



SB175 Enrolled

225 Section 11. The Alabama Community College System shall
226 do all of the following:

227 (1) Adopt any policies and procedures necessary to
228 implement and administer this article.

229 (2) Establish standards for participation and
230 eligibility to receive a grant under this article.

231 (3) Establish the process by which eligible students
232 will apply for a grant.

233 (4) Ensure that grants provided under this article are
234 awarded in a manner that does not discriminate based on
235 gender, race, or disability status of the applicant.

236 (5) Ensure that all grant applicants are residents of
237 the State of Alabama.

238 (6) Ensure that all funding provided under this article
239 is expended for the sole purpose of helping to pay the
240 eligible student's qualifying educational expenses.

241 Section 12. (a) There is created within the State
242 Treasury a fund to be known as the Short-Term Credential
243 Scholarship Fund, which is authorized to accept funds
244 appropriated by the Legislature in the general appropriations
245 act or other appropriations acts.

246 (b) The grants provided under this article shall be
247 effective on January 1, 2024, and shall continue through
248 December 31, 2028, unless extended by an act of the
249 Legislature.

250 Section 13. (a) The Alabama Community College System
251 shall provide an annual report to the Chair of the House Ways
252 and Means Education Committee and the Chair of the Senate



SB175 Enrolled

253 Finance and Taxation Education Committee to account for the
254 use of funds and the effectiveness of the grant program
255 established under this article.

256 (b) The Alabama Community College System shall consult
257 with the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services to
258 develop performance metrics and other measures of success to
259 include in the annual report required pursuant to subsection
260 (a). During the 2027 Fiscal Year, the program shall undergo an
261 evaluation by the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of
262 Services to determine whether the program is impacting the
263 determined measures of success.

264 Section 14. The Apprenticeship Tax Credit, Chapter 18
265 of Title 40, commencing with Section 40-18-422, Code of
266 Alabama 1975, is repealed effective December 31, 2024, unless
267 extended by an act of the Legislature prior to that date for
268 no more than five additional years.

269 Section 15. This act shall become effective on the
270 first day of the third month following its passage and
271 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.



SB175 Enrolled

272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB175

Senate 27-Apr-23

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Senate 01-Jun-23

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate, as amended by Conference Committee Report.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Amended and passed: 25-May-23

House of Representatives
Passed 01-Jun-23, as amended by Conference Committee Report.

By: Senator Orr