

HB525 INTRODUCED



1 HB525
2 U98PKDD-1
3 By Representatives Chestnut, Daniels, England, McCampbell,
4 Lawrence, Gray, Lands, Travis, Bracy, Hassell, Sellers,
5 Morris, Moore (M), Hall
6 RFD: Ways and Means Education
7 First Read: 03-Apr-25



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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, the Alabama Student Grant
6 Program, administered by the Alabama Commission on
7 Higher Education, awards grants to students to attend
8 certain approved independent Alabama institutions of
9 higher education.

10 This bill would add any independent historically
11 Black college or university (HBCU) located in Selma,
12 Alabama, to the list of institutions approved to
13 participate in the grant program.

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15
16 A BILL
17 TO BE ENTITLED
18 AN ACT
19

20 To amend Section 16-33A-1, Code of Alabama 1975,
21 relating to the Alabama Student Grant Program; to add any
22 independent historically Black college or university (HBCU)
23 located in Selma, Alabama, to the list of institutions
24 approved to participate in the grant program.

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

26 Section 1. Section 16-33A-1 of the Code of Alabama
27 1975, is amended to read as follows:

28 "§16-33A-1



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As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms ~~shall~~ have the following meanings ~~respectively ascribed to them by this section~~:

(1) ACHE. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

(2) ALABAMA RESIDENT. ~~A person~~ An individual who has been domiciled in the State of Alabama for a period of at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding application for a grant under the ~~Alabama Student Grant Program~~ program. ~~The~~ ACHE shall ~~promulgate~~ adopt and enforce ~~regulations~~ rules further defining and limiting the term domicile so as to limit the benefits of this ~~legislation~~ chapter to bona fide Alabama ~~citizens~~ residents, based upon criteria including residency of parents and guardians, voter registration of students and parents, driver's license registration, and other facts indicating bona fide ~~citizenship~~ residency.

(3) APPROVED INSTITUTION. a. Includes all of the following:

1. Any independent nonprofit postsecondary institution of higher learning located in the State of Alabama which is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, ~~any.~~

2. Any independent nonprofit postsecondary institution of higher learning whose credits are accepted by at least three other institutions which are accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, ~~or any~~

3. Any independent postsecondary institution of higher learning with a permanent facility offering classroom



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instruction located in Montgomery County, Alabama, which has been incorporated and in continuous operation for over 50 years and which has been accredited for over 10 years by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, prior to July 1, 2010.

4. Any independent postsecondary historically Black college or university (HBCU) located in Selma, Alabama, that is accredited by a federally recognized accreditation agency.

b. ~~Such an~~ An approved institution must have an academic curriculum which is not comprised principally of sectarian instruction or preparation of students for a sectarian vocation and which does not award primarily theologian or seminarian degrees. To the extent that any ~~such~~ institution may have a religious or denominational affiliation, ~~it~~ the institution must perform essentially secular educational functions which are distinct and separable from religious activity. ~~Such an~~ An approved institution must not discriminate in its admissions practices on the basis of religious or denominational preference.

c. No independent postsecondary institution of higher learning shall be considered an approved institution during any fiscal year in which ~~it~~ the institution receives a direct appropriation from the State of Alabama. Nothing contained ~~herein~~ in this subdivision shall be construed to limit, replace, or diminish any direct state appropriation now being made or which shall hereafter be made to any independent institution of higher learning.

(4) ELIGIBLE STUDENT. Any applicant for a grant under



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the ~~Alabama Student Grant Program~~ program who:

a. Has obtained a certificate of graduation from a secondary school or the recognized equivalent of ~~such~~ graduation; ~~and~~

b. Is classified as an undergraduate student, as defined in this chapter; ~~and~~

c. Is an Alabama resident, as defined in this chapter; ~~and~~

d. Is a citizen of the United States or in the process of becoming a citizen of the United States; ~~and~~

e. Is enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time or part-time student in a program of at least six months' duration in an approved institution as defined in this chapter; and

f. Is not enrolled and does not intend to enroll in a course of study leading to an undergraduate degree in theology or divinity.

(5) FULL-TIME STUDENT. An individual student who meets the criteria established by definitions, and rules, ~~and regulations to be established~~ adopted by ~~the~~ ACHE.

(6) GRANT. A monetary award under the ~~Alabama Student Grant Program~~ program to an approved institution on behalf of and to the credit of an eligible student pursuant to this chapter.

(7) INSTITUTIONAL RELATED EXPENSES. Nonsectarian educational expenses, including, but not limited to, tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, transportation, books and supplies, and other incidental nonsectarian education expenses



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113 anticipated by an eligible student.

114 (8) PART-TIME STUDENT. An individual student who meets
115 all qualifications as an eligible student and who meets the
116 further criteria to be established by ~~the~~ ACHE.

117 (9) PROGRAM. The Alabama Student Grant Program,
118 including the administration thereof.

119 (10) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT. Any individual student who
120 meets all other qualifications as an eligible student and has
121 not received a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent."

122 Section 2. This act shall become effective on July 1,
123 2025.