

**SB192 INTRODUCED**



1 SB192  
2 F2K4D5C-1  
3 By Senator Stewart  
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation Education  
5 First Read: 20-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would add one institution of higher learning located in Selma, Alabama, to the institutions allowed to participate in the Alabama Student Grant Program which is administered by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Student Grant Program; to amend Section 16-33A-1, Code of Alabama 1975, to add one institution of higher learning located in Selma, Alabama, to the institutions allowed to participate in the program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

"§16-33A-1

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

- (1) ACHE. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education.
- (2) ALABAMA RESIDENT. A person who has been domiciled



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29 in the State of Alabama for a period of at least 12  
30 consecutive months immediately preceding application for a  
31 grant under the Alabama Student Grant Program. The ACHE shall  
32 ~~promulgate~~ adopt and enforce regulations further defining and  
33 limiting the term domicile so as to limit the benefits of this  
34 legislation to bona fide Alabama citizens, based upon criteria  
35 including residency of parents and guardians, voter  
36 registration of students and parents, ~~driver's~~ driver license  
37 registration, and other facts indicating bona fide  
38 citizenship.

39 (3) APPROVED INSTITUTION. Any independent nonprofit  
40 postsecondary institution of higher learning located in the  
41 State of Alabama which is accredited by the Commission on  
42 Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,  
43 any independent nonprofit postsecondary institution of higher  
44 learning whose credits are accepted by at least three other  
45 institutions which are accredited by the Commission on  
46 Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,  
47 or any independent postsecondary institution of higher  
48 learning with a permanent facility offering classroom  
49 instruction located in Montgomery County, Alabama, which has  
50 been incorporated and in continuous operation for over 50  
51 years and which has been accredited for over 10 years by the  
52 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges  
53 and Schools, prior to July 1, 2010, or any independent  
54 postsecondary historically black college or university (HBCU)  
55 institution of higher learning located in Selma, Alabama, that  
56 is eligible for Title IV funding and accredited by a federally



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57 recognized accreditation agency. Such an approved institution  
58 must have an academic curriculum which is not comprised  
59 principally of sectarian instruction or preparation of  
60 students for a sectarian vocation and which does not award  
61 primarily theologian or seminarian degrees. To the extent that  
62 any such institution may have a religious or denominational  
63 affiliation, it must perform essentially secular educational  
64 functions which are distinct and separable from religious  
65 activity. Such an approved institution must not discriminate  
66 in its admissions practices on the basis of religious or  
67 denominational preference. No independent postsecondary  
68 institution of higher learning shall be considered an approved  
69 institution during any fiscal year in which it receives a  
70 direct appropriation from the State of Alabama. Nothing  
71 contained herein shall be construed to limit, replace, or  
72 diminish any direct state appropriation now being made or  
73 which shall hereafter be made to any independent institution  
74 of higher learning.

75 (4) ELIGIBLE STUDENT. Any applicant for a grant under  
76 the Alabama Student Grant Program who:

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

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

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

84 d. Is a citizen of the United States or in the process



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85 of becoming a citizen of the United States; ~~and~~

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

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

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

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

99 (7) INSTITUTIONAL RELATED EXPENSES. Nonsectarian  
100 educational expenses, including, but not limited to, tuition,  
101 mandatory fees, room and board, transportation, books and  
102 supplies, and other incidental nonsectarian education expenses  
103 anticipated by an eligible student.

104 (8) PART-TIME STUDENT. An individual student who meets  
105 all qualifications as an eligible student and who meets the  
106 further criteria to be established by the ACHE.

107 (9) PROGRAM. The Alabama Student Grant Program,  
108 including the administration thereof.

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

112 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October



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113 1, 2025.