

**HB125 ENROLLED**



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



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 Relating to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education  
5 and the ReEngage Alabama Grant Program; to amend Sections  
6 16-33D-3 and 16-33D-6, Code of Alabama 1975, to decrease the  
7 minimum age of an adult learner from 25 to 22 years of age;  
8 and to provide further for the definition of an eligible  
9 student.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

13 "§16-33D-3

14 For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms  
15 have the following meanings:

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

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

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

28 (4) APPROVED INSTITUTION. A state-supported institution



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29 of higher education or a private nonprofit institution of  
30 higher education that satisfies all of the following:

31 a. Is accredited by the Southern Association of  
32 Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, or the Council on  
33 Occupational Education.

34 b. Is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid  
35 program funds.

36 c. Maintains its primary headquarters in Alabama.

37 (5) AUTHORIZED INSTITUTION. An approved institution  
38 that files a signed agreement with the commission to comply  
39 with all rules and procedures of the ReEngage Alabama Grant  
40 Program as provided by the commission.

41 (6) COMMISSION. The Alabama Commission on Higher  
42 Education.

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

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

52 (9) ELIGIBLE STUDENT. An individual who completed the  
53 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and who is  
54 in either of the following:

55 a. In pursuit of his or her first associate or  
56 baccalaureate degree, ~~who~~ satisfies the criteria set out in



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57 this chapter, and ~~who~~ is found to be eligible by rules adopted  
58 by the commission.

59 b. In pursuit of his or her first baccalaureate degree  
60 following a two-year stop-out period after receiving his or  
61 her first associate degree and did not previously receive a  
62 grant award, satisfies the criteria set out in this chapter,  
63 and is found to be eligible by rules adopted by the  
64 commission.

65 (10) GRANT. A financial award by the State of Alabama  
66 to defray the cost of tuition and mandatory fees to an  
67 eligible adult learner who is currently enrolled in an  
68 authorized institution.

69 (11) PROGRAM. The ReEngage Alabama Grant Program  
70 created by this chapter.

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

74 "§16-33D-6

75 (a) The program shall be used to provide grant award  
76 payments for eligible adult learners up to the maximum award  
77 amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for universities and  
78 one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for community  
79 colleges per academic semester for a full-time student.  
80 Proportional awards shall be given for students taking six to  
81 11 hours and students enrolled in less common academic terms,  
82 such as quarters, Summer terms, and intersessions.

83 (b) (1) Each grant shall be renewable for the number of  
84 terms normally required by the institution for the course of



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85 study in which the adult learner is enrolled as long as the  
86 student is continuously enrolled until the student receives ~~an~~  
87 either of the following:

88 a. His or her first associate degree or ~~a~~ baccalaureate  
89 degree.

90 b. His or her first baccalaureate degree following a  
91 two-year stop-out period after receiving his or her first  
92 associate degree without previously receiving a grant award.

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

95 (c) Grant award payments shall be distributed directly  
96 to the approved institution on behalf of the student during  
97 the applicable year.

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

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

103 (f) Any funds appropriated to the program shall be  
104 nonreverting.

105 (g) A percentage of the grant program's appropriations  
106 may be expended for the operation and maintenance of the  
107 program.

108 (h) Each authorized institution that enrolls an adult  
109 learner who is eligible for the tuition and mandatory fees  
110 benefits provided by this program shall take necessary action  
111 to ensure that the student is aware of all other benefits that  
112 he or she may be entitled to under any other federal and state



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113 educational benefits, and any student grant or scholarship. In  
114 order to receive the benefits provided by this program, the  
115 student shall take the necessary steps to utilize all of the  
116 above benefits."

117           Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
118 1, 2026.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 15-Jan-26.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

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**10-Mar-26**

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Passed