



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5832

January Session, 2019



**AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY EXPENSE GRANT PROGRAMS
AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this section:
2 "State and certain other institutional funds" means (1) funds
3 appropriated or proceeds of bonds authorized by the General
4 Assembly, (2) revenue generated from tuition or any other source, and
5 (3) funds collected from student fees, housing fees or dining services.

6 (b) A public institution of higher education may establish an
7 emergency expense grant program to provide an emergency expense
8 grant to any student who experiences an unexpected financial
9 hardship that impedes such student's ability to complete his or her
10 degree program. Such financial hardship may include, but need not be
11 limited to, expenses relating to childcare, medical care or
12 transportation expenses.

13 (c) Any student who is enrolled at a public institution of higher
14 education that has established an emergency expense grant program
15 under this section may receive an emergency expense grant by
16 submitting an application to the institution or through a nomination
17 on behalf of such student by an employee of the institution. An
18 application or nomination for an emergency expense grant shall
19 include (1) an explanation of the student's financial hardship, (2)
20 documentation substantiating the student's emergency expenses, and
21 (3) any other information the institution may require.

22 (d) Upon receipt of an application made by a student or a
23 nomination on behalf of a student made by an employee pursuant to
24 subsection (c) of this section, the public institution of higher education
25 may award an emergency expense grant to a student upon
26 determination that the financial hardship would impede the student's
27 ability to complete his or her degree.

28 (e) For purposes of establishing an emergency expense grant
29 program under this section, a public institution of higher education
30 may (1) accept private donations, (2) allocate state and certain other
31 institutional funds, or (3) on or before July 1, 2020, and annually
32 thereafter, apply to the Office of Higher Education, in the form and
33 manner prescribed by said office, for a state matching grant, the
34 provision of which shall be made in accordance with the provisions of
35 section 2 of this act.

36 (f) A public institution of higher education that applies for a state
37 matching grant under subsection (e) of this section to support the
38 institution's emergency expense grant program shall maintain a
39 separate, nonlapsing emergency expense grant program account. The
40 institution shall deposit into such account (1) all private donations
41 accepted by the institution for the purpose of the emergency expense
42 grant program, (2) all state and certain other institutional funds
43 allocated by the institution for the purpose of the emergency expense
44 grant program, and (3) any state matching grant funds received
45 pursuant to section 2 of this act.

46 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) Not later than September 1,
47 2020, and annually thereafter, the Office of Higher Education shall,
48 within available appropriations and upon receipt of an application
49 from a public institution of higher education for a state matching
50 grant, provide a state matching grant to the public institution of higher
51 education for the purpose of the institution's emergency expense grant
52 program established pursuant to section 1 of this act. In any fiscal year,
53 a state matching grant to a public institution of higher education shall
54 be in an amount equal to the total amount of private donations

55 accepted by the institution for the purpose of the emergency expense
56 grant program during the prior fiscal year.

57 (b) In any fiscal year, the total amount of the state matching grants
58 provided by the Office of Higher Education under this section shall not
59 exceed five hundred thousand dollars. If, in any fiscal year, the total
60 amount sought in all state matching grant applications submitted by
61 the public institutions of higher education exceeds the amount
62 available to the Office of Higher Education for the purpose of the
63 emergency expense grant programs, all such matching grants shall be
64 reduced on a pro rata basis.

65 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) A public institution of higher
66 education that receives matching grants pursuant to section 2 of this
67 act shall, on or before July 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, submit a
68 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
69 statutes, to the Office of Higher Education and to the joint standing
70 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
71 relating to higher education regarding (1) the number of emergency
72 expense grant program applications received and awarded, (2) the
73 average and total dollar amounts of the emergency expense grants
74 requested and awarded, (3) the purposes for which the emergency
75 expense grants were requested, (4) the rates of graduation of recipients
76 of emergency expense grants and the general student body, and (5)
77 any other information the Office of Higher Education deems necessary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

APP *Joint Favorable*