



February 11, 2021

---

## HOUSE BILL No. 1553

---

DIGEST OF HB 1553 (Updated February 10, 2021 3:04 pm - DI 116)

**Citations Affected:** IC 21-12; IC 21-13.

**Synopsis:** Higher education matters. Changes the eligibility requirements for the next generation Hoosier educators scholarship and provides that a student may qualify for the scholarship by achieving a cumulative grade point average upon graduation of at least a 3.5 on a 4.0 grading scale during grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Requires the commission for higher education to give priority to an individual who is: (1) a recent high school graduate; (2) pursuing a teacher shortage area; (3) showing significant financial need; or (4) a member of a household with an annual income of not more than the amount required for the individual to qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program as determined for the immediately preceding taxable year. Provides that the National Guard tuition supplement program may be used by a scholarship applicant for graduate credits.

**Effective:** July 1, 2021.

---

### Behning, Cook, Teshka

---

January 14, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.  
February 11, 2021, amended, reported — Do Pass.

---

HB 1553—LS 7183/DI 136





February 11, 2021

First Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2021)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1553

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1       SECTION 1. IC 21-12-13-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.81-2019,  
2       SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3       JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 2. (a) This section applies to the following  
4       scholarship, stipend, and fee remission statutes:  
5               (1) IC 21-12-3.  
6               (2) IC 21-12-4.  
7               (3) IC 21-12-6.  
8               (4) IC 21-13-2.  
9               (5) IC 21-13-7.  
10              (6) IC 21-13-8.  
11              (7) IC 21-13-4.  
12              (8) IC 21-14-5.  
13              (9) IC 21-12-16.  
14       (b) Except as provided in subsection (c), and except for a stipend  
15       granted under IC 21-13-8 to an individual described in  
16       IC 21-13-8-1(b)(2)(B), a grant or reduction in tuition or fees, including  
17       all renewals and extensions, under any of the laws listed in subsection

**HB 1553—LS 7183/DI 136**



(a) may not exceed the number of terms that constitutes:

**(1) except as provided in subdivision (2), four (4) undergraduate academic years, as determined by the commission; or**

**(2) for purposes of IC 21-13-4, six (6) academic years as determined by the commission;**

and must be used within eight (8) years after the date the individual first applies and becomes eligible for benefits under the applicable law.

(c) The commission may, subject to the availability of funds, extend eligibility under subsection (b) for a recipient who used a grant or reduction in tuition or fees under any of the statutes listed in subsection (a) at a postsecondary educational institution that closed. The extension of eligibility may not exceed the number of terms used by the recipient at the postsecondary educational institution that closed.

SECTION 2. IC 21-12-16-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.92-2020, SECTION 101, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 5. (a) An applicant who is enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution after June 30, 2017, may qualify for a scholarship under this chapter. To qualify for a scholarship, an applicant must:

(1) apply for a scholarship on a form supplied by the commission;

(2) except as provided in subsection (b), have graduated from an Indiana nonaccredited nonpublic or state accredited high school accredited under IC 20-31-4.1 and: ~~either:~~

(A) graduated in the highest twenty percent (20%) of students in the applicant's high school graduating class; ~~or~~

(B) received a score in the top twentieth percentile on the SAT or ACT examination; **or**

**(C) achieved a cumulative grade point average upon graduation of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 grading scale (or its equivalent if another grading scale is used) for courses taken during grades 9, 10, 11, and 12;**

(3) have participated in school activities and community service activities during high school;

(4) have applied to and been accepted for enrollment in an accredited postsecondary educational institution approved by the commission under section 10 of this chapter;

(5) agree in writing to:

(A) obtain a license to teach under IC 20-28-5; and

(B) teach for at least five (5) consecutive years in a public school or an eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) in Indiana after graduating with a baccalaureate degree from the accredited postsecondary educational institution described in



1 subdivision (4); and

2 (6) meet any other criteria established by the commission.

3 (b) A student who graduates from a nonaccredited nonpublic school  
4 must meet the requirement described in subsection (a)(2)(B) in order  
5 to meet the eligibility requirement described in subsection (a)(2).

6 SECTION 3. IC 21-12-16-6, AS ADDED BY P.L.105-2016,  
7 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
8 JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 6. **(a)** The commission shall consider each  
9 application and determine the eligibility of the applicant for the  
10 scholarship. The commission shall give priority to recent high school  
11 graduates, **students pursuing teacher shortage areas as described in**  
12 **34 CFR 682.210(q)(6), and students showing significant financial**  
13 **need** when selecting applicants.

14 **(b) The commission shall also give priority to an individual who**  
15 **is a member of a household with an annual income of not more**  
16 **than the amount required for the individual to qualify for the free**  
17 **or reduced price lunch program under the national school lunch**  
18 **program as determined for the immediately preceding taxable year**  
19 **for the household for which the individual was claimed as a**  
20 **dependent.**

21 SECTION 4. IC 21-13-1-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007, SECTION  
22 254, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
23 1, 2021]: Sec. 4. "Eligible student", for purposes of section 8 of this  
24 chapter, means a person who:

- 25 (1) is a member of the Indiana National Guard:  
26 (A) in active drilling status; and  
27 (B) who has not been absent without leave within the twelve  
28 (12) months immediately preceding the date the person applies  
29 for a tuition scholarship under this chapter;  
30 ~~(2) does not possess a bachelor's degree from an approved~~  
31 ~~postsecondary educational institution;~~  
32 ~~(3) (2)~~ possesses the requisite academic qualifications;  
33 ~~(4) (3)~~ meets the requirements of the state educational institution  
34 in which the person is enrolled or will enroll; and  
35 ~~(5) (4)~~ meets all other eligibility requirements as determined by  
36 the commission.

37 SECTION 5. IC 21-13-4-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007, SECTION  
38 254, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
39 1, 2021]: Sec. 2. Money in the National Guard tuition supplement  
40 program fund shall be used to provide annual scholarships to  
41 scholarship applicants in an amount that is equal to one (1) of the  
42 following amounts:



(1) If the scholarship applicant does not receive other financial assistance specifically designated for educational costs, the amount equal to a full **undergraduate** tuition scholarship, **regardless as to whether the student uses the scholarship for undergraduate or graduate educational costs**, to attend the state educational institution.

(2) If the scholarship applicant receives other financial assistance specifically designated for educational costs, the amount:

(A) equal to the balance required to attend the state educational institution; and

(B) not to exceed the amount described in subdivision (1).

SECTION 6. IC 21-13-4-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.217-2015, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 3. (a) Subject to subsection (b), each scholarship awarded under this chapter:

(1) may be renewed under this chapter for a total scholarship award that does not exceed the equivalent of the number of terms that constitutes ~~four (4)~~ **undergraduate six (6)** academic years **as determined by the commission**; and

(2) is subject to other eligibility criteria as established by the commission.

(b) A scholarship awarded under this chapter may not be renewed if the eligible individual fails to maintain at least a cumulative grade point average that the eligible institution determines is satisfactory academic progress.



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Education, to which was referred House Bill 1553, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 21-12-13-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.81-2019, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 2. (a) This section applies to the following scholarship, stipend, and fee remission statutes:

- (1) IC 21-12-3.
- (2) IC 21-12-4.
- (3) IC 21-12-6.
- (4) IC 21-13-2.
- (5) IC 21-13-7.
- (6) IC 21-13-8.
- (7) IC 21-13-4.
- (8) IC 21-14-5.
- (9) IC 21-12-16.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), and except for a stipend granted under IC 21-13-8 to an individual described in IC 21-13-8-1(b)(2)(B), a grant or reduction in tuition or fees, including all renewals and extensions, under any of the laws listed in subsection (a) may not exceed the number of terms that constitutes:

**(1) except as provided in subdivision (2), four (4) undergraduate academic years, as determined by the commission; or**

**(2) for purposes of IC 21-13-4, six (6) academic years as determined by the commission;**

and must be used within eight (8) years after the date the individual first applies and becomes eligible for benefits under the applicable law.

(c) The commission may, subject to the availability of funds, extend eligibility under subsection (b) for a recipient who used a grant or reduction in tuition or fees under any of the statutes listed in subsection (a) at a postsecondary educational institution that closed. The extension of eligibility may not exceed the number of terms used by the recipient at the postsecondary educational institution that closed."

Page 1, line 16, delete "3.75" and insert "**3.5**".

Page 2, after line 32, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 3. IC 21-13-1-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007, SECTION 254, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY



1, 2021]: Sec. 4. "Eligible student", for purposes of section 8 of this chapter, means a person who:

- (1) is a member of the Indiana National Guard:
  - (A) in active drilling status; and
  - (B) who has not been absent without leave within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date the person applies for a tuition scholarship under this chapter;
- ~~(2) does not possess a bachelor's degree from an approved postsecondary educational institution;~~
- ~~(3)~~ (2) possesses the requisite academic qualifications;
- ~~(4)~~ (3) meets the requirements of the state educational institution in which the person is enrolled or will enroll; and
- ~~(5)~~ (4) meets all other eligibility requirements as determined by the commission.

SECTION 4. IC 21-13-4-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007, SECTION 254, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 2. Money in the National Guard tuition supplement program fund shall be used to provide annual scholarships to scholarship applicants in an amount that is equal to one (1) of the following amounts:

- (1) If the scholarship applicant does not receive other financial assistance specifically designated for educational costs, the amount equal to a full **undergraduate** tuition scholarship, **regardless as to whether the student uses the scholarship for undergraduate or graduate educational costs**, to attend the state educational institution.
- (2) If the scholarship applicant receives other financial assistance specifically designated for educational costs, the amount:
  - (A) equal to the balance required to attend the state educational institution; and
  - (B) not to exceed the amount described in subdivision (1).

SECTION 5. IC 21-13-4-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.217-2015, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 3. (a) Subject to subsection (b), each scholarship awarded under this chapter:

- (1) may be renewed under this chapter for a total scholarship award that does not exceed the equivalent of the number of terms that constitutes ~~four (4) undergraduate~~ **six (6) academic years as determined by the commission**; and
  - (2) is subject to other eligibility criteria as established by the commission.
- (b) A scholarship awarded under this chapter may not be renewed





if the eligible individual fails to maintain at least a cumulative grade point average that the eligible institution determines is satisfactory academic progress."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.  
and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1553 as introduced.)

BEHNING

Committee Vote: yeas 13, nays 0.

