

SENATE BILL No. 356

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 21-12-8; IC 21-13.

Synopsis: Workforce retention incentives. Provides that an individual who is enrolled in certain associate degree programs may be eligible for the high value workforce ready credit-bearing grant. Requires the commission of higher education (commission), in conjunction with the department of workforce development, to determine which associate degree programs are eligible, including associate degree programs in advanced manufacturing, information technology, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Establishes the workforce retention and brain gain loan forgiveness program (program). Provides that the commission shall administer the program. Establishes the workforce retention and brain gain loan forgiveness fund to provide annual student loan forgiveness payments to individuals who meet certain requirements.

Effective: July 1, 2023.

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January 12, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Appropriations.



First Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2023)

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 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 356



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 21-12-8-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.143-2019,
2 SECTION 30, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 2. The commission shall do the following:
4 (1) Prescribe the form and manner in which applications for adult
5 student grants may be submitted.
6 (2) Determine the eligibility of applicants.
7 (3) Determine the amount of an adult student grant awarded to a
8 recipient.
9 (4) In conjunction with the department of workforce development,
10 determine which certificate programs are eligible for the high
11 value workforce ready credit-bearing grant under section ~~9~~
12 **9(b)(3)(A)** of this chapter after considering at least the following
13 for each certificate program:
14 (A) Workforce demand and needs.
15 (B) Wage level data and information.
16 (C) Program content and completion data.
17 (D) Job placement data.



- 1 (E) The program's impact on public safety.
- 2 **(5) In conjunction with the department of workforce**
- 3 **development, determine which associate degree programs are**
- 4 **eligible for the high value workforce ready credit-bearing**
- 5 **grant under section 9(b)(3)(B) of this chapter, including**
- 6 **associate degree programs in the following:**
- 7 **(A) Advanced manufacturing.**
- 8 **(B) Information technology.**
- 9 **(C) Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.**
- 10 SECTION 2. IC 21-12-8-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.92-2020,
- 11 SECTION 100, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 12 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 9. (a) This section applies to an
- 13 applicant who attends or has attended any of the following:
- 14 (1) An approved secondary school.
- 15 (2) A state accredited nonpublic school.
- 16 (3) A nonaccredited nonpublic school.
- 17 (b) An applicant is eligible to receive a high value workforce ready
- 18 credit-bearing grant if the following conditions are met:
- 19 (1) The applicant is domiciled in Indiana, as defined by the
- 20 commission.
- 21 (2) The applicant:
- 22 (A) has received a diploma of graduation from a school
- 23 described in subsection (a);
- 24 (B) has been granted a:
- 25 (i) high school equivalency certificate before July 1, 1995;
- 26 or
- 27 (ii) state of Indiana general educational development (GED)
- 28 diploma under IC 20-10.1-12.1 (before its repeal),
- 29 IC 20-20-6 (before its repeal), or IC 22-4.1-18; or
- 30 (C) is a student in good standing who is completing a final
- 31 year of study at a school described in subsection (a) and will
- 32 be eligible upon graduation to attend an approved institution
- 33 of higher learning.
- 34 (3) The applicant is enrolled in:
- 35 **(A) an eligible certificate program, as determined under**
- 36 **section 2(4) of this chapter, at Ivy Tech Community College,**
- 37 **Vincennes University, or a program approved by the**
- 38 **commission; or**
- 39 **(B) an eligible associate degree program, as determined**
- 40 **under section 2(5) of this chapter, at Ivy Tech Community**
- 41 **College, Vincennes University, or an associate degree**
- 42 **program approved by the commission.**



- 1 (4) The applicant enrolls at least half-time for purposes of federal
2 financial aid.
- 3 (5) The applicant has not received any grant for the maximum
4 number of academic terms specified for the grant in
5 IC 21-12-13-1 or IC 21-12-13-2.
- 6 (6) The applicant is not eligible for any state financial aid
7 program described in IC 21-12-13-1(a) or IC 21-12-13-2(a).
- 8 (7) The applicant is identified as financially independent from the
9 applicant's parents as determined by the Free Application for
10 Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- 11 (8) The applicant has correctly filed the FAFSA and, if eligible
12 for aid, accepts all offered federal scholarships and grants.
- 13 (9) Except as provided under subsection (c) **and subject to**
14 **subsection (f)**, the applicant maintains satisfactory academic
15 progress, as determined by the eligible institution.
- 16 (10) The applicant has not previously received a baccalaureate
17 degree, an associate degree, or an eligible certificate.
- 18 (11) The applicant meets any other minimum criteria established
19 by the commission.
- 20 (c) This subsection applies to an applicant who does not maintain
21 satisfactory academic progress under subsection (b)(9) but meets all the
22 other conditions required under subsection (b). An applicant is eligible
23 to receive a high value workforce ready credit-bearing grant if the
24 applicant meets one (1) of the following:
- 25 (1) The applicant has not attended an eligible institution for the
26 immediately preceding two (2) academic years.
- 27 (2) The applicant:
- 28 (A) attended an eligible institution at any time during the
29 immediately preceding two (2) academic years; and
- 30 (B) maintained satisfactory academic progress, as determined
31 by the eligible institution, during the period described in
32 clause (A) in which the applicant attended the eligible
33 institution.
- 34 (d) If an applicant is identified as dependent as determined by the
35 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the applicant must:
- 36 (1) meet the criteria specified in subsection (b), except for
37 subsection (b)(4), (b)(7), and (b)(9);
- 38 (2) enroll full time for purposes of federal financial aid;
- 39 (3) maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the
40 eligible institution; and
- 41 (4) complete a workforce ready grant success program, as
42 determined by the commission, if the applicant graduates from



1 high school after December 31, 2018.

2 (e) If the demand for high value workforce ready credit-bearing
3 grants exceeds the available appropriation, as determined by the
4 commission, the commission shall prioritize the applicants identified
5 as independent as determined by the Free Application for Federal
6 Student Aid (FAFSA).

7 **(f) An applicant who is enrolled in an eligible associate degree**
8 **program must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at**
9 **least 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale or its equivalent as established by**
10 **the eligible institution.**

11 SECTION 3. IC 21-12-8-10, AS ADDED BY P.L.230-2017,
12 SECTION 31, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
13 JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 10. (a) The amount of a high value workforce
14 ready credit-bearing grant under section 9 of this chapter is equal to
15 one (1) of the following:

16 (1) If the applicant does not receive financial assistance,
17 excluding loans, the amount is equal to the educational costs (as
18 defined in IC 21-7-13-14) of the institution that the applicant is
19 attending.

20 (2) If the applicant receives financial assistance, excluding loans,
21 the amount is equal to the educational costs (as defined in
22 IC 21-7-13-14) of the institution that the applicant is attending
23 minus the financial assistance received by the applicant.

24 (b) An applicant may use the high value workforce ready
25 credit-bearing grant only to pay the educational costs (as defined by
26 IC 21-7-13-14) of courses required for the applicant's certificate **or**
27 **associate degree** program.

28 SECTION 4. IC 21-12-8-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.10-2019,
29 SECTION 94, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
30 JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 11. (a) The duration of a high value workforce
31 ready credit-bearing grant under section 9 of this chapter may not
32 exceed the lesser of:

33 (1) two (2) undergraduate academic years; or

34 (2) the number of credit hours required by the eligible certificate
35 **or associate degree** program in which the student is enrolled.

36 (b) Subject to the conditions described in this chapter, a student's
37 high value workforce ready credit-bearing grant may be renewed if the
38 student:

39 (1) maintains satisfactory academic progress while receiving the
40 grant; and

41 (2) is enrolled in an eligible certificate **or associate degree**
42 program that requires more than twelve (12) credit hours or its



1 equivalent.

2 (c) A recipient of the high value workforce ready credit-bearing
3 grant may not receive aid under IC 21-12-3, IC 21-12-4, or IC 21-12-6
4 unless the recipient has:

5 (1) received a high-value certificate **or associate degree**, as
6 determined by the commission; or

7 (2) met the requirements of IC 21-12-1.7-3(b),
8 IC 21-12-3-9(a)(6), or IC 21-12-6-7(a)(6).

9 SECTION 5. IC 21-13-1-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.148-2016,
10 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
11 JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 5. "Fund":

12 (1) for purposes of IC 21-13-2, refers to the William A. Crawford
13 minority teacher scholarship fund established by IC 21-13-2-1;

14 (2) for purposes of IC 21-13-4, refers to the National Guard
15 tuition supplement program fund established by IC 21-13-4-1;

16 (3) for purposes of IC 21-13-5, refers to the National Guard
17 scholarship extension fund established by IC 21-13-5-1;

18 (4) for purposes of IC 21-13-6, refers to the primary care
19 physician loan forgiveness fund established by IC 21-13-6-3; ~~and~~

20 (5) for purposes of IC 21-13-6.5, refers to the medical residency
21 education fund established by IC 21-13-6.5-1; **and**

22 **(6) for purposes of IC 21-13-12, refers to the workforce
23 retention and brain gain loan forgiveness fund established by
24 IC 21-13-12-3.**

25 SECTION 6. IC 21-13-12 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
26 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
27 JULY 1, 2023]:

28 **Chapter 12. Workforce Retention and Brain Gain Loan
29 Forgiveness Program**

30 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the
31 workforce retention and brain gain loan forgiveness program
32 established by section 2 of this chapter.**

33 **Sec. 2. (a) The workforce retention and brain gain loan
34 forgiveness program is established to:**

35 **(1) increase the graduation rates of state educational
36 institutions; and**

37 **(2) encourage individuals to remain in Indiana after
38 graduating from a state educational institution.**

39 **(b) The commission shall administer the program.**

40 **Sec. 3. (a) The workforce retention and brain gain loan
41 forgiveness fund is established to provide annual student loan
42 forgiveness payments to individuals qualified under section 5 of**



- 1 this chapter.
- 2 (b) The fund shall be administered by the commission.
- 3 (c) The fund consists of the following:
- 4 (1) Appropriations by the general assembly.
- 5 (2) Gifts, grants, devises, or bequests to the fund.
- 6 (d) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from
- 7 money in the fund.
- 8 (e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not
- 9 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same
- 10 manner as other public funds. Interest that accrues from those
- 11 investments shall be deposited in the fund.
- 12 (f) Money in the fund at the end of a fiscal year does not revert
- 13 to the state general fund.
- 14 Sec. 4. (a) The commission may award an annual student loan
- 15 forgiveness payment to an individual who is eligible under section
- 16 5 of this chapter for not more than ten (10) years.
- 17 (b) A student loan forgiveness payment awarded to an
- 18 individual in a particular year is equal to the lesser of the following
- 19 amounts:
- 20 (1) The balance of the individual's total amount of student
- 21 loans.
- 22 (2) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- 23 Sec. 5. To qualify for a student loan forgiveness payment under
- 24 this chapter, an individual must:
- 25 (1) have graduated from a state educational institution with
- 26 a baccalaureate or an associate degree;
- 27 (2) be a resident of Indiana;
- 28 (3) be employed on a full-time basis in the field of:
- 29 (A) science;
- 30 (B) technology;
- 31 (C) engineering;
- 32 (D) mathematics;
- 33 (E) education, including early childhood education;
- 34 (F) social work;
- 35 (G) nursing;
- 36 (H) mental health;
- 37 (I) public health;
- 38 (J) home health; or
- 39 (K) childcare development;
- 40 (4) conduct the majority of the individual's work under
- 41 subdivision (3) in Indiana;
- 42 (5) have an outstanding student loan balance at the beginning



1 **of the calendar year; and**
2 **(6) be approved by the commission.**
3 **Sec. 6. The commission may award not more than ten million**
4 **dollars (\$10,000,000) in total per year for loan forgiveness**
5 **payments under this chapter.**

