

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1361 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WARD, ALLOWAY, WHITE, GORDNER, WOZNIAK, STACK,
GREENLEAF, MENSCH, SCHWANK, ARGALL, FONTANA, BREWSTER,
ERICKSON, YUDICHAK, RAFFERTY, COSTA AND McILHINNEY,
MAY 5, 2014

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 5, 2014

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," establishing the Ready to Succeed
6 Scholarship Program; and conferring powers and imposing
7 duties on the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
8 and the Department of Education.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
12 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
13 section to read:

14 Section 2599.6. Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program.--(a)
15 The Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program is established within
16 the agency.

17 (b) The agency may use funds appropriated for the purpose of
18 this section from the General Fund, and may accept donations and
19 contributions from all public and private sources, including the

1 Federal Government, to provide scholarships for defraying the
2 necessary expense of residents of this Commonwealth who are
3 students pursuing postsecondary education at an institution of
4 higher education.

5 (c) The agency, in consultation with the Department of
6 Education, shall administer and establish guidelines for the
7 program.

8 (d) The Department of Education shall consult with the
9 agency to identify and provide guidelines for student
10 eligibility and renewal criteria. Student eligibility, at a
11 minimum, shall require all of the following:

12 (1) Total annual household income which does not exceed one
13 hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$110,000). With each new award
14 year, the agency shall annually adjust the total annual
15 household income threshold under this paragraph to reflect any
16 upward changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban
17 Consumers (CPI-U) for the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and
18 Maryland area.

19 (2) At least half-time enrollment in a State-grant-approved
20 program of study.

21 (3) Demonstration of outstanding academic achievement.

22 (4) Compliance with all requirements of the State grant
23 program administered by the agency, notwithstanding the
24 financial need requirements of the State grant program.

25 (e) Scholarship awards shall be established by the agency
26 based upon available resources.

27 (f) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
28 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
29 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

30 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance

1 Agency.

2 "Institution of higher education." A postsecondary
3 institution that participates in the State grant program, and is
4 domiciled and headquartered with its principal physical location
5 in this Commonwealth.

6 "Program." The Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program
7 established under this section.

8 "State grant." A grant or scholarship awarded under the act
9 of January 25, 1966 (1965 P.L.1546, No.541), referred to as the
10 Higher Education Scholarship Law.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.