

2010 -- S 2525

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH AND FAMILIES' HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY INCENTIVE GRANT

Introduced By: Senator Maryellen Goodwin

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 42-72.8-2 and 42-72.8-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-72.8
2 entitled "Department of Children, Youth, and Families' Higher Education Opportunity Incentive
3 Grant" are hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **42-72.8-2. Administration of program.** -- (a) Each year the department shall identify
5 and recommend from among youth in its legal custody, or who were in the Department's legal
6 custody on their eighteenth (18th) birthday, those students who may be eligible to apply for a
7 Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant. The department of elementary and secondary
8 education shall afford all appropriate assistance to the department in the identification of youth
9 who may be eligible for such grants. Each selected applicant will receive grants to supplement
10 federal, state and institutional scholarships, ~~and~~ grants and loans awarded to the applicant in an
11 amount not to exceed the full cost of tuition, fees and room and board charges:

12 (b) A grant period shall be limited to two (2) years of full-time study at the Community
13 College of Rhode Island, four (4) years of full-time study at Rhode Island College, and the
14 University of Rhode Island, and in no instance shall the grant period exceed a period of four (4)
15 years. Grant recipients shall be enrolled full-time and shall continue to make satisfactory progress
16 toward an academic certificate or degree as determined by the school in which they are enrolled;

17 (c) The department shall make recommendations for grant awards from among those
18 youth who:

1 (1) Have not yet reached the age of eighteen (18) on the day of recommendation, are in
2 the legal custody of the department on the day of recommendation and have remained in such
3 custody for at least twenty-four (24) months prior to the day of recommendation; or, for former
4 foster care, have reached the age of eighteen (18) prior to the date of recommendation, have not
5 yet reached the age of twenty-one (21) and were in the custody of the department from their
6 sixteenth (16th) to their eighteenth (18th) birthdays; and

7 (2) Have graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma
8 not more than one year prior to the date of recommendation; and

9 (3) Has not reached his/her twenty-first (21st) birthday; except that youth who are
10 participating in this program on the date before his/her twenty-first (21st) birthday may remain
11 eligible until his/her twenty-third (23rd) birthday, as long as he/she continues to be considered a
12 full-time student by Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College or University of
13 Rhode Island, and is making satisfactory progress, as determined by the school in which he/she is
14 enrolled, toward completion of his/her degree program.

15 **42-72.8-3. Selection of grant recipients.** -- (a) There shall be a grant award selection
16 committee which shall consist of a representative from each of the institutions of higher education
17 appointed by their respective presidents, two (2) representatives from the department of children,
18 youth, and families appointed by the director, one representative from the department of
19 elementary and secondary education appointed by the commissioner, and one representative from
20 the office of higher education appointed by the commissioner and representatives of other
21 organizations that the director of department of children, youth and families believes can help
22 further the goals of the program.

23 (b) Grant awards shall be made on the basis of scholastic record, aptitude, financial need
24 and general interest in higher education. Recipients must comply with all application deadlines
25 and criteria for admission to the institution to which the recipient is making application and,
26 further, the recipient must have been granted admission by the admissions office of the
27 institution. Cumulative grant awards shall not exceed available appropriations in any fiscal year.
28 The ~~selection committee~~ department shall adopt rules and regulations, which are reasonably
29 necessary to implement ~~a process of grant recipient selection.~~

30 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH AND FAMILIES' HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY INCENTIVE GRANT

1 This act would extend the eligibility age of individuals receiving higher education
2 opportunity incentive grants from under 21 to those who are 23 if they reach the age of 21 while
3 participating in the grant.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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