

Amendment to HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL

1 Amend the bill by replacing sections 160-168 with the following:

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3 160 College Tuition Savings Plan; Advisory Commission. Amend the introductory paragraph in  
4 RSA 195-H:2, I(a) to read as follows:

5 I.(a) There is established the New Hampshire college tuition savings plan advisory  
6 commission which shall ensure the proper administration and management of the savings plan. The  
7 advisory commission shall ensure that the savings plan complies with the requirements of section  
8 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any related federal law applicable to the  
9 savings plan. The commission shall also be responsible for ensuring the proper administration,  
10 implementation, and management of the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment  
11 trust fund established in RSA 6:38, and the governor's scholarship program and fund established in  
12 ~~[RSA 4 C:31-34]~~ ***RSA 195-H:11-14. The commission, by a majority vote, may transfer funds***  
13 ***between the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment trust fund and the***  
14 ***governor's scholarship fund.*** The commission shall consist of the following members:

15 161 New Subdivision; Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund. Amend RSA 195-H by  
16 inserting after section 10 the following new subdivision:

17 Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund

18 195-H:11 Definitions. In this subdivision:

19 I. "Eligible institution" means a postsecondary educational institution or training program  
20 within the university system of New Hampshire as defined in RSA 187-A, a postsecondary  
21 educational institution within the community college system of New Hampshire as defined in RSA  
22 188-F, or a private postsecondary institution approved to operate in this state that:

23 (a) Is approved by the higher education commission pursuant to RSA 21-N:8-a and  
24 accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education; and

25 (b) Is a not-for-profit organization eligible to receive federal Title IV funds.

26 II. "Eligible student" means a first-year, full-time, Pell Grant-eligible student who meets the  
27 eligibility and residency requirements of RSA 195-H:13. "First-year" means a student who has never  
28 enrolled in an eligible institution.

29 III. "Full-time" means an enrolled student who is carrying an academic course load that is  
30 determined to be full-time by the eligible institution based on a standard applicable to all students  
31 enrolled in a particular educational program. The student's course load may include any

**Amendment to HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL**  
**- Page 2 -**

1 combination of courses, work, research, or special studies that the eligible institution considers  
2 sufficient to classify the student as full-time.

3 195-H:12 Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund Established.

4 I. There is hereby established the governor's scholarship program and the governor's  
5 scholarship fund. The program and fund shall be administered by the commission. The fund shall  
6 be kept distinct and separate from all other funds and shall be used to provide scholarships which a  
7 recipient shall apply to the costs of an education at an eligible institution. The funds shall be  
8 distributed to an eligible institution based on the number of eligible students awarded a scholarship  
9 and upon receipt of a request for reimbursement for such scholarship funds accompanied by  
10 appropriate documentation.

11 II. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund any appropriation relating to the governor's  
12 scholarship fund made in each fiscal year to the commission. The state treasurer shall invest the  
13 fund in accordance with RSA 6:8. Any earnings shall be added to the fund.

14 III. All moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the  
15 commission for the purposes of this subdivision.

16 IV. The commission may institute promotional programs and solicit and receive cash gifts or  
17 other donations for the purpose of supporting educational scholarships from the fund. The  
18 commission shall not solicit or accept real property.

19 V. All gifts, grants, and donations of any kind shall be credited to the fund.

20 195-H:13 Eligibility.

21 I. Any person who meets the following requirements shall be an eligible student:

22 (a) A person shall meet the residency requirements of RSA 193:12; be a graduate of a  
23 New Hampshire high school, public academy, chartered public school, New Hampshire private  
24 preparatory high school, a high school-level home education program as defined in RSA 193-A; have  
25 received a New Hampshire high school equivalency certificate; have completed at least 3 years of  
26 high school in this state; be pursuing a certificate, associate, or bachelor degree at an eligible  
27 institution in this state; and be eligible to receive a Pell grant; or

28 (b) A person shall be a graduate of a preparatory high school outside of this state while a  
29 dependent of a parent or legal guardian who is a legal resident of this state and who has custody of  
30 the dependent; or

31 (c) A person shall have a parent or guardian who has served in or has retired from the  
32 United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard within the last 4 years and is a  
33 resident of this state; or

34 (d) A person shall be a graduate of a high school, public academy, chartered public high  
35 school, or a high school-level home education program outside of this state but have maintained his  
36 or her primary residence in this state for not less than 5 years preceding the date of application for a  
37 scholarship.

**Amendment to HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL**  
**- Page 3 -**

1           II. A person shall meet the qualifications for academic performance or work experience as  
2 established by the commission.

3           III. A person shall not have been adjudicated delinquent or convicted or pled guilty or nolo  
4 contendere to any felonies or any second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related offenses under the  
5 laws of this or any other state, or under the laws of the United States, except that an otherwise  
6 eligible person who has been adjudicated delinquent or has been convicted or pled guilty or nolo  
7 contendere to a second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related misdemeanor offense shall be eligible  
8 or continue to be eligible for a scholarship after the expiration of one academic year from the date of  
9 adjudication, conviction, or plea.

10           195-H:14 Procedures.

11           I. All scholarship funds shall be distributed to the eligible student by the eligible institution.  
12 The institution shall include the scholarship in the student's financial aid package and may seek  
13 subsequent reimbursement. The state shall provide the reimbursements twice per year to each  
14 eligible institution for the number of eligible students enrolled in the current semester or term who  
15 are receiving a scholarship. The institution shall submit the list of scholarship recipients to the  
16 commission or its designee no later than November 30 and April 30 of each academic year, and shall  
17 be reimbursed within 30 days of submission.

18           II. An eligible student may receive a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 per year provided  
19 he or she maintains at least a 2.0 grade point average. An eligible student who earned the New  
20 Hampshire scholar designation at the time of high school graduation may receive a scholarship in  
21 the amount of \$2,000 per year provided he or she maintains at least a 2.5 grade point average. The  
22 eligible institution shall not reduce any merit or need-based grant aid that would have otherwise  
23 been provided to the eligible student. An eligible student may receive an annual scholarship for a  
24 maximum of 4 years.

25           III. In the event the state does not reimburse the eligible institution for scholarship amounts  
26 paid to an eligible student receiving an award, the eligible institution shall agree not to seek  
27 additional payments from the eligible student and to absorb the loss of funds without any  
28 consequence to the eligible student.

29           IV. The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to awarding and  
30 disbursing scholarship funds to an eligible student enrolled in an eligible institution.

31           V. An eligible student, who initially attends a community college and transfers directly to an  
32 eligible institution, without a break in attendance, shall remain an eligible student for a maximum  
33 of 4 years of total eligibility.

34           VI. The commission may hire staff or enter into a contract for services or personnel  
35 necessary to administer the program.

36           162 Application of Receipts; Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund. Amend RSA 6:12,  
37 I(b)(336) to read as follows:

**Amendment to HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL**  
**- Page 4 -**

1                   (336) Moneys deposited into the governor's scholarship fund established in ~~[RSA 4-~~  
2 ~~C:32]~~ ***RSA 195-H:12.***

3           163 Repeal. RSA 4-C:31 through RSA 4-C:34, relative to the governor's scholarship program  
4 and fund, are repealed.

5

6 Amend the bill by deleting section 193.

UNAPPROVED

2021-0907h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

Replace paragraphs 67-69:

67. Moves the governor's scholarship program and fund from the office of strategic initiatives to the college tuition savings plan and authorizes the college tuition savings plan advisory commission to transfer funds between the governor's scholarship fund and the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment trust fund.

UNAPPROVED