

HOUSE BILL NO. 148

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/29/23

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to the Alaska performance scholarship program."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** AS 14.43.820(a) is amended to read:

(a) Subject to appropriation, the commission shall award an Alaska performance scholarship to an applicant who

(1) is a resident of the state as defined in AS 01.10.055;

(2) graduated or will graduate within **18** [SIX] months from a high school in the state;

(3) except as provided in (c) of this section, has completed, **is enrolled in, or plans to enroll in** a core academic curriculum of high school level coursework that includes

(A) four years of mathematics, four years of language arts, four years of science, and four years of social studies, one year of which may include a foreign language, an Alaska Native language, fine arts, [OR] cultural heritage, **or career and technical education**; [OR]

(B) three years of mathematics, four years of language arts, three years of science, four years of social studies, and two years of

(i) a foreign language or an Alaska Native language; or

(ii) career and technical education, one year of which includes two semesters of sequentially more rigorous content within a career cluster; or

(C) three years of mathematics, four years of language arts, three years of science, four years of social studies, one year of which may be career and technical education, and two years of a foreign language or an Alaska Native language; and

(4) has a minimum grade-point average in high school of 2.5 or higher; the department shall set by regulation minimum requirements based on a substantially similar standard for districts that do not assign grades [;

(5) HAS ACHIEVED A MINIMUM SCORE ON A

(A) COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION; OR

(B) STANDARDIZED EXAMINATION DESIGNED TO MEASURE A STUDENT'S LEVEL OF PREPAREDNESS TO MAKE THE TRANSITION TO WORK, AS SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

(6) IS ENROLLED IN GOOD STANDING IN A COURSE OF STUDY AT A QUALIFIED POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE THAT IS INTENDED TO RESULT IN THE AWARD OF A CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE].

* Sec. 2. AS 14.43.820(g) is amended to read:

(g) In this section,

(1) "career cluster" means a group of jobs and industries that are related by skills or products;

(2) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990.

* Sec. 3. AS 14.43.820 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(h) Not later than December 31 of each year, a district shall notify each student in the district who is enrolled in grade 11 of the remaining academic requirements the student must meet to be awarded an Alaska performance scholarship

1 at each level described in AS 14.43.825(a).

2 (i) Not later than August 15 of each year, the commission shall notify each
3 applicant awarded a scholarship under (a) of this section that the applicant has been
4 awarded an Alaska performance scholarship. The notice must

5 (1) identify the Alaska performance scholarship level awarded as
6 described in AS 14.43.825(a); and

7 (2) inform the applicant that

8 (A) the commission may disburse the award only if the
9 applicant meets the requirements described in (l) of this section; and

10 (B) the commission will adjust the applicant's award under the
11 circumstances described in (k) of this section.

12 (j) If a district provides information to or otherwise communicates with a
13 student regarding the Alaska performance scholarship, the district shall also provide
14 information about the requirements to increase an award level under AS 14.43.825(g)
15 and (h).

16 (k) If, at the time an applicant awarded an Alaska performance scholarship
17 graduates from high school, the applicant's grade-point average differs from the grade-
18 point average on which the commission based the applicant's award, the commission
19 shall adjust the applicant's award in accordance with the applicable Alaska
20 performance scholarship level described in AS 14.43.825(a).

21 (l) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, and except as provided in (c) of this
22 section, the commission may disburse an Alaska performance scholarship awarded to
23 an applicant under this section only if the applicant

24 (1) has, at the time of the applicant's graduation from high school,

25 (A) completed the core academic curriculum of high school
26 level coursework described in (a)(3) of this section; and

27 (B) met the minimum grade-point average in high school
28 described in (a)(4) of this section; and

29 (2) is enrolled in good standing in a course of study at a qualified
30 postsecondary institution in this state that is intended to result in the award of a
31 certificate or degree.

1 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.43.825(a) is amended to read:

2 (a) The maximum annual awards for the Alaska performance scholarships are
3 as follows:

4 (1) the first award level is **\$7,000** [\$4,755] and requires a
5 [(A)] 3.5 grade-point average or above [; AND
6 (B) VERY HIGH MINIMUM SCORE ON A COLLEGE
7 ENTRANCE EXAMINATION];

8 (2) the second award level is **\$5,250** [\$3,566] and requires a
9 [(A)] 3.0 grade-point average or above [; AND
10 (B) HIGH MINIMUM SCORE ON A COLLEGE
11 ENTRANCE EXAMINATION];

12 (3) the third award level is **\$3,500** [\$2,378] and requires a
13 [(A)] 2.5 grade-point average or above [; AND
14 (B) MODERATELY HIGH MINIMUM SCORE ON A
15 COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION].

16 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.43.825(b) is amended to read:

17 (b) A student's eligibility for a scholarship terminates **eight** [SIX] years after
18 the date the student graduates from high school unless the student qualifies for an
19 extension of time allowed by the department by regulation.

20 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.43.825 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

21 (g) Each time a student who is an award recipient completes two semesters of
22 full-time enrollment at a qualified university or college in this state, the commission
23 shall review the student's university or college grade-point average and, if the student's
24 grades qualify under (h) of this section, increase the award level for the student as
25 described in (h) of this section and notify the student of the increase. In this
26 subsection, "full-time enrollment" means enrollment in a course of study that is not
27 less than 15 credits.

28 (h) If an award recipient's university or college grade-point average is
29 (1) 3.5 or above, the commission shall increase the student's award
30 level to the amount described in (a)(1) of this section;

31 (2) 3.0 or above, the commission shall increase the student's award

1 level to the amount described in (a)(2) of this section.

2 (i) In this section,

3 (1) "award recipient" means a student who has received an Alaska
4 performance scholarship at the second or third award level;

5 (2) "university or college grade-point average" means the average of
6 all grades on a four-point scale obtained by a student at a qualified university or
7 college in this state.