GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2025

H.B. 670 Apr 1, 2025 HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

HOUSE BILL DRH40382-NG-110

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Short Title:	Workforce Credential Grant Program/CCP.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Representative Willis.	
Referred to:		

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1		A BILL TO BE ENTITLED	
2	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A CAREER AND COLLEGE PATHWAYS INNOVATION		
3	CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM.		
4	The General Ass	sembly of North Carolina enacts:	
5	SEC	TION 1. Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new	
6	Article to read:		
7		"Article 10.	
8		"Workforce Grant Programs.	
9	" <u>§ 115D-150. P</u>	rogram established.	
10	There is esta	blished the Career and College Pathways Innovation Challenge Grant Program	
11	(Program) to m	neet statewide educational attainment and workforce development goals by	
12	developing local	and regional partnerships that foster innovations to accomplish the following:	
13	<u>(1)</u>	Increase postsecondary enrollment and completion for both students enrolling	
14		directly from high school and adults returning to education.	
15	<u>(2)</u>	Ensure alignment between educational options provided and labor market	
16		needs.	
17	<u>(3)</u>	Eliminate educational opportunity gaps where they exist.	
18	8 " <u>§ 115D-151. Definitions.</u>		
19	The following definitions apply in this Article:		
20	<u>(1)</u>	Approved grant award. – Awards granted to participating community colleges	
21		upon approval of a Program application by the State Board.	
22	<u>(2)</u>	Participating community college. – A community college that submitted an	
23		application for the Program that was approved by the State Board.	
24	" <u>§ 115D-155. G</u>	Frant program administration.	
25	<u>(a)</u> The S	State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt necessary rules and policies to	
26	administer the P	rogram, including for the following purposes:	
27	<u>(1)</u>	The administration and awarding of grant funds, based on a competitive grant	
28		process, to local and regional partnerships that represent cross-sector	
29		collaborations among the Department of Public Instruction, the Community	
30		Colleges System Office, The University of North Carolina System Office,	
31		local governments, community-based organizations, employers, and other	
32		local entities. The design of the Program is to be developed in consultation	
33		with the following entities:	
34		<u>a.</u> <u>The Division of Workforce Solutions of the Department of Commerce.</u>	
35		b. The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office.	
36		c. The North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities.	



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The University of North Carolina System Office. 1 d. 2 The leadership of MyFutureNC. The use of funds and reporting of expenditures by participating community 3 (2) 4 colleges. In awarding grant funds to participating community colleges, the 5 State Board shall consider applications that propose to do the following: 6 Plan and pilot innovative initiatives to raise educational attainment and a. 7 decrease opportunity gaps. 8 Engage community-based organizations and resources. <u>b.</u> 9 Expand the use of work-based learning. <u>c.</u> d. 10 Provide financial support to cover (i) expenses beyond educational 11 tuition and fees and (ii) other services and supports to encourage students to enroll and to complete education and training. 12 Provide local matching funds. 13 e. 14 The monitoring and control of spending grant funds, including support and (3) 15 technical assistance to participating community colleges. Up to four percent (4%) of the funds appropriated to the Community Colleges System 16 17 Office for implementation of the Program in each fiscal year may be used for administrative 18 costs. 19 Up to ten percent (10%) of the funds appropriated to the Community Colleges System (c) 20 Office for implementation of the Program in each fiscal year may be used for marketing and communications, including contracting with non-State entities for marketing and 21 22 communications. 23 "§ 115D-160. Grant amounts. 24 To the extent funds are made available for the Program, the State Board of 25 Community Colleges shall award grants to participating community colleges in an amount up to 26 the lesser of (i) the actual cost associated with an application by a community college or (ii) two 27 hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000). 28 In the event that the funds appropriated for the Program are insufficient to award all 29 approved grant awards, each award shall be reduced by an equivalent percentage to ensure that 30 funding is awarded to all participating community colleges. "§ 115D-165. Reporting requirement. 31 The State Board, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, shall analyze data 32 33 pertaining to the Program and shall report annually by July 15 to the Joint Legislative Education 34 Oversight Committee on the following information from the prior academic year: 35 The total dollar amount of grant funds awarded. (1) 36 (2) The total number of participating community colleges. The progress of each local and regional partnership that partnered with a 37 (3) participating community college, as reflected in high school graduation rates, 38 39 postsecondary enrollment and completion, job growth, and labor market 40 alignment, with data being disaggregated by income, race, ethnicity, and other 41 demographic characteristics, where available." 42 SECTION 2.(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 115D-160, as enacted by this act, for the 43 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 fiscal years, the State Board of Community Colleges shall allocate a total of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to be directed to participating community colleges in 44 45 the following areas affected by Hurricane Helene: 46 (1) Alexander County. 47 (2) Alleghany County. Ashe County. 48 (3) 49 (4) Avery County.

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Buncombe County.

Burke County.

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(6)

Colleges System Office the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.

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