

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AMENDMENTS

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

House Sponsor: Adam Gardiner

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to the centennial scholarship.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- changes the amount of the centennial scholarship;
- allows a student to defer consideration for a centennial scholarship for certain reasons; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53A-15-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapters 236 and 415

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53A-15-102** is amended to read:

53A-15-102. Early graduation incentives -- Incentive to school district -- Partial tuition scholarship for student -- Student deferral -- Payments.

(1) ~~[Any]~~ A secondary public school student who has completed all required courses or

demonstrated mastery of required skills and competencies may~~;~~ graduate at any time with the approval of:

(a) the student~~;~~;

(b) the student's parent or guardian~~[-and an authorized];~~ and

(c) a local school official~~[-graduate at any time]~~ who is authorized by the school's principal or director to approve early graduation.

(2) ~~[Each]~~ The State Board of Education shall make a payment to a public high school ~~[shall receive]~~ in an amount equal to 1/2 of the scholarship awarded to each student under this section who graduates from the school at or ~~[prior to]~~ before the conclusion of ~~[the eleventh]~~ grade 11, or a proportionately lesser amount for ~~[any]~~ a student who graduates after the conclusion of ~~[the eleventh]~~ grade 11 but ~~[prior to]~~ before the conclusion of ~~[the twelfth]~~ grade 12.

(3) (a) ~~[A]~~ The State Board of Education shall award to each student who graduates from high school at or ~~[prior to]~~ before the conclusion of ~~[the eleventh]~~ grade ~~[shall receive]~~ 11 a centennial scholarship in the ~~[lesser amount of full tuition for one year or \$1,000 to be used]~~ amount of the greater of 30% of the previous year's value of the weighted pupil unit, as defined in Section 53A-1a-703, or \$1,000, subject to this Subsection (3) through Subsection (6).

(b) A student who is awarded a centennial scholarship may use the scholarship for full time enrollment at:

(i) a Utah public college, university, or community college~~;~~;

(ii) an applied technology college within the Utah College of Applied Technology~~;~~;

or

(iii) any other institution in the state of Utah~~[-accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges]~~ that:

(A) is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the State Board of Regents; and

(B) offers postsecondary courses of the student's choice ~~[upon verification].~~

56 (c) Before making a payment of a centennial scholarship, the State Board of Education
57 shall verify that the student has registered at ~~[the]~~ an institution described in Subsection (3)(b):

58 (i) during the fiscal year following the student's graduation from high school~~[-];~~ or

59 (ii) at the end of the student's deferral period, in accordance with Subsection (4).

60 ~~[(b) In the case of]~~

61 (d) If a student ~~[who]~~ graduates after the conclusion of ~~[the eleventh]~~ grade 11 but
62 ~~[prior to]~~ before the conclusion of ~~[the twelfth]~~ grade 12, the State Board of Education shall
63 award the student ~~[shall receive]~~ a centennial scholarship of a proportionately lesser amount
64 than the scholarship amount described in Subsection (3)(a).

65 (4) (a) A student who is eligible for a centennial scholarship under Subsection (3) may
66 make a request to the State Board of Education that the State Board of Education defer
67 consideration of the student for the scholarship for a set period of time.

68 (b) A student who makes a request under Subsection (4)(a) shall state in the request the
69 reason for which the student wishes not to be considered for the scholarship until the end of the
70 deferral period, which may include:

71 (i) health reasons;

72 (ii) religious reasons;

73 (iii) military service; or

74 (iv) humanitarian service.

75 (c) If a student makes a request under Subsection (4)(a), the State Board of Education
76 shall:

77 (i) (A) review the student's request; and

78 (B) approve or reject the student's request; and

79 (ii) if the State Board of Education approves the student's request, in consultation with
80 the student, set the length of the deferral period, ensuring that the deferral period is sufficient to
81 meet the student's needs under Subsection (4)(b).

82 (d) At the end of the deferral period, and upon request of the student, the State Board

of Education shall:

(i) determine a student to be eligible for the scholarship if the student was eligible at the time of the student's request for deferral; and

(ii) if found eligible, make a payment to the student in an amount equal to the amount described in Subsection (4)(e).

(e) The amount of a student's deferred scholarship payment shall be determined by the State Board of Education based on the amount of the scholarship the student would have been entitled to as described in Subsection (3) and based on the fiscal year prior to the student's request for deferral.

(5) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), the State Board of Education:

~~[(4)]~~ (a) ~~[The]~~ shall make the payments authorized in Subsections (2) and (3)(a) [shall be made] during the fiscal year that follows the student's graduation[-]; and

(b) ~~[The]~~ may make the payments authorized in Subsection (3)(b) [may be made] during the fiscal year:

(i) in which the student graduates; or [the fiscal year]

(ii) following the student's graduation.

~~[(5)(a) The State Board of Education shall administer the payment program authorized in Subsections (2), (3), and (4).]~~

~~[(b) The Legislature shall make an annual appropriation from the Education Fund to the State Board of Education for the costs associated with the Centennial Scholarship Program based on the projected number of students who will graduate before the conclusion of the twelfth grade in any given year.]~~

(6) Subject to future budget constraints, the Legislature shall adjust the appropriation for the Centennial Scholarship Program based on:

(a) the anticipated increase of students awarded a centennial scholarship; and

(b) the percent increase of the prior year's weighted pupil unit value, as provided in Subsection (3).

