

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes the ACHIEVE scholarship program for income eligible students who take qualifying advanced courses in high school. The scholarship is equal to \$314 per advanced course that can be used for postsecondary expenses.

Section

1 Academic Competitiveness Highlighting Individual Excellence and Valuing Education Scholarship program.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes the ACHIEVE scholarship program.

Subd. 2. Purpose. States the purpose is to reward students for taking rigorous courses in high school.

Subd. 3. Program goal. States the program goals as encouraging more students from low- and moderate-income families to take rigorous college-level courses in high school and providing funding to help with postsecondary education costs.

Subd. 4. Definition; qualifying course. Defines "qualifying course" to include advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or equivalent course credits through examination, postsecondary enrollment options courses, concurrent enrollment courses, college in the schools courses, and work-based learning courses.

Section

Subd. 5. Documentation of qualifying courses. Requires high schools, at the request of a student, to certify and submit a transcript to the Office listing qualifying courses.

Subd. 6. Review panel. Requires an appointed review panel with representatives of public and private high schools and postsecondary institutions to monitor ACIEVE scholarships. Expires June 30, 2008.

Subd. 7. Student eligibility. Requires that students participating have family income less than \$100,000, and be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen and a Minnesota resident.

Subd. 8. Administration. Assigns ACHIEVE administration to the Office.

Subd. 9. Documentation of qualifying family income. Requires family income to be documented on the application by declaration and permits the Office to request tax returns.

Subd. 10. Scholarship awards. Provides an award of \$314 per qualifying course during high school that can be used for qualifying postsecondary expenses.

Subd. 11. Qualifying expenses. Allows postsecondary expenses included in the federal definition of the cost of attendance.

Subd. 12. Eligible institution. Allows scholarships to be used at Minnesota degree granting public and private institutions that are accredited, registered or licensed, and participate in the state grant program.

Subd. 13. Availability of scholarship funds. Authorizes use of funds for four academic years immediately after high school graduation.

Subd. 14. Disbursement of scholarships. Requires the Office to pay the postsecondary institution for the scholarship recipient.

Subd. 15. Authority to adopt rules. Authorizes the Office to adopt rules.