

File Number: H.F. 607
Version: As introduced

Date: February 7, 2017

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Subject: Resident Tuition Relief Grants

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Overview

H.F. 607 establishes a “last dollar” grant program to pay for the cost of undergraduate tuition and fees at public postsecondary institutions in Minnesota. The grants would pay for any portion of a student’s tuition and fees that are not covered by Pell grants, state grants, or other scholarships.

Only resident undergraduate students who are eligible for other state financial aid programs would be eligible for the new grant program, and the program would be limited to students with adjusted gross incomes below certain thresholds.

The program includes a statutory appropriation, meaning the program would automatically receive the funds required to provide the grants.

Section

1 Resident tuition relief grants.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines the following terms:

- “College” means a public postsecondary institution in the U of M or Minnesota State systems.
- “Eligible individual” means:
 - (1) A resident student, as it is defined for the purposes of existing state financial aid programs.

Section

(2) A dependent student with an adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less, or an independent student with an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less.

- “Grant” means a grant provided in the program.

Subd. 2. Establishment. Establishes a resident tuition relief grant program in the Office of Higher Education.

Subd. 3. Application. Requires that application for a grant be made using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and any additional form required by the commissioner.

Subd. 4. Grant amount. Sets the grant amount equal to the cost of tuition and fees at the student’s college of attendance, minus Pell grants, state grants, and other scholarships awarded to the student.

Stipulates that awards may not be used to pay for tuition and fees related to graduate and professional instruction.

Subd. 5. Satisfactory academic progress. Limits grant eligibility to students making satisfactory academic progress. The bill’s definition of satisfactory academic progress is:

- (1) maintain a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and
- (2) meet the existing definition of satisfactory academic progress for the purposes of state financial aid programs.

Subd. 6. Grant renewal. Stipulates that a grant may be renewed annually, and allows the commissioner to dictate the form and schedule of renewal.

Subd. 7. Appropriation. Provides a statutory appropriation of the amount annually required to provide the grants described in the bill.