

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL DRS15430-MTa-180

Short Title: UNC Tuition Grants for CIHS Grads. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Garrett (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO EXPAND TUITION GRANTS TO ATTEND A CONSTITUENT INSTITUTION
3 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO INCLUDE GRADUATES FROM
4 COOPERATIVE AND INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOLS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Part 6 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes, as enacted
7 by Section 8A.1 of S.L. 2021-180, reads as rewritten:

8 "Part 6. Tuition Grant for High School Graduates of ~~the North Carolina School of Science and~~
9 ~~Mathematics and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.~~Eligible Public Schools.

10 "**§ 116-209.89. Definitions.**

11 For purposes of this Part, the following definitions shall apply:

12 (1) Eligible graduate. – A high school graduate from an eligible public school.

13 (2) Eligible public school. – The North Carolina School of Science and
14 Mathematics (NCSSM), the University of North Carolina School of the Arts
15 (UNCSA), or a cooperative innovative high school as defined in
16 G.S. 115C-238.50A(1a).

17 "**§ 116-209.90. Tuition grants for eligible graduates to attend a constituent institution.**

18 (a) Within the funds available, ~~a high school graduate from the North Carolina School of~~
19 ~~Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) or the University of North Carolina School of the Arts~~
20 ~~(UNCSA)~~ an eligible graduate in each school year who meets the following conditions shall be
21 eligible-qualify for a tuition grant awarded under this Part:

22 (1) Is a resident for tuition purposes under the criteria set forth in G.S. 116-143.1
23 and in accordance with the coordinated and centralized residency
24 determination process administered by the Authority.

25 (2) Enrolls as a full-time student in a constituent institution of The University of
26 North Carolina in the next academic year after graduation.

27 (b) Students who receive initial tuition grants as a cohort of ~~a high school~~ an eligible
28 public school graduating class of ~~NCSSM or UNCSA~~ shall also be eligible-qualify to apply for
29 tuition grants for subsequent academic years for up to a total of four academic ~~years.~~ years in an
30 undergraduate program. A student must be continuously enrolled in a constituent institution of
31 The University of North Carolina after the award of the initial tuition grant to ~~be eligible-qualify~~
32 for tuition grants in subsequent academic years. The Authority shall have the discretion to waive
33 this requirement if the student is able to demonstrate that any of the following have substantially
34 disrupted or interrupted the student's pursuit of a degree: (i) a military service obligation, (ii)
35 serious medical debilitation, (iii) a short-term or long-term disability, or (iv) other extraordinary
36 hardship.



1 (c) The amount of the tuition grant to each eligible graduate shall be determined and
2 distributed as provided in G.S. 116-209.91.

3 **"§ 116-209.91. Administration of tuition grants.**

4 (a) The Authority shall administer the tuition grants provided for in this Part pursuant to
5 guidelines and procedures established by the Authority consistent with its practices for
6 administering State-funded financial aid. The guidelines and procedures shall include an
7 application process and schedule, notification and disbursement procedures, standards for
8 reporting, and standards for return of tuition grants when a student withdraws. The Authority
9 shall not approve any grant until it receives proper certification from the appropriate constituent
10 institution that the student applying for the grant is ~~an eligible~~ a qualifying student. Upon receipt
11 of the certification, the Authority shall remit, at the times it prescribes, the tuition grant to the
12 constituent institution on behalf, and to the credit, of the student. In the event a student on whose
13 behalf a tuition grant has been paid is not enrolled and carrying a minimum academic load as of
14 the tenth classroom day following the beginning of the school term for which the tuition grant
15 was paid, the constituent institution shall refund the full amount of the tuition grant to the
16 Authority.

17 ...

18 (d) In the event there are not sufficient funds to provide each ~~eligible-qualifying~~ student
19 who has applied in accordance with the application process and the schedule established by the
20 Authority with a full tuition grant as provided by this Part, each ~~eligible-qualifying~~ student shall
21 receive a pro rata share of funds available for the academic year covered by the appropriation in
22 the preceding fiscal year.

23"

24 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
25 Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2022-2023 fiscal year the sum of eleven
26 million five hundred thousand dollars (\$11,500,000) in recurring funds to expand tuition grants
27 to attend a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina to include graduates from
28 cooperative and innovative high schools.

29 **SECTION 2.(b)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate the following
30 additional funds for the purpose of awarding tuition grants for future graduates from cooperative
31 and innovative high schools:

- 32 (1) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of eleven million five hundred
33 thousand dollars (\$11,500,000) in recurring funds.
- 34 (2) For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of eleven million five hundred
35 thousand dollars (\$11,500,000) in recurring funds.
- 36 (3) For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the sum of eleven million five hundred
37 thousand dollars (\$11,500,000) in recurring funds.

38 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2022. Section 1 of this act applies
39 beginning with graduates of cooperative and innovative high schools from the 2021-2022 school
40 year.