

SENATE BILL No. 315

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-12-22.3.

Synopsis: Academic honors scholarships. Establishes the Indiana honors diploma higher education award as a scholarship program for persons domiciled in Indiana who graduate from a public or private high school with an Indiana honors diploma, and attend a public or private nonprofit institution of higher learning in Indiana on a full-time or part-time basis. Provides eligible students with a scholarship award in an amount (subject to the availability of appropriations) equal to 50% of the educational costs at public universities in Indiana, less an adjustment for money awarded to the student under other state higher education award programs. Provides for administration of the program
(Continued next page)

Effective: July 1, 1998.

Server

January 8, 1998, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.

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Digest Continued

by the state student assistance commission. Appropriates from the state general fund a sufficient amount to provide higher education awards.

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Introduced

Second Regular Session 110th General Assembly (1998)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1997 General Assembly.

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SENATE BILL No. 315

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education and to make an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-12-22.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1998]:

4 **Chapter 22.3. Indiana Honors Diploma Higher Education**
5 **Award**

6 **Sec. 1. The purpose of this chapter is to increase the**
7 **opportunities for a higher education in Indiana for persons**
8 **domiciled in Indiana who graduate from an Indiana public or**
9 **nonpublic high school with an academic honors diploma.**

10 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "academic honors diploma"**
11 **means a certificate of graduation that certifies that the student has**
12 **satisfied the requirements specified by the Indiana department of**
13 **education for graduation with academic honors.**

14 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "academic year" has the**
15 **meaning set forth in IC 20-12-21-3(1).**



1 **Sec. 4.** As used in this chapter, "approved institution of higher
2 learning" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-12-21-3(2) and
3 includes:

- 4 (1) a nursing diploma program that is accredited by the
5 Indiana state board of nursing and operated by a hospital; or
6 (2) a technical certificate or associate degree program at Ivy
7 Tech State College.

8 **Sec. 5.** As used in this chapter, "award" refers to an Indiana
9 honors diploma higher education award under this chapter.

10 **Sec. 6.** As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the
11 state student assistance commission established by IC 20-12-21-4.

12 **Sec. 7.** As used in this chapter, "educational costs" has the
13 meaning set forth in IC 20-12-21-3(5).

14 **Sec. 8.** As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the Indiana
15 honors diploma scholarship fund established by this chapter.

16 **Sec. 9.** The Indiana honors diploma higher education award
17 program is established to provide monetary awards under this
18 chapter.

19 **Sec. 10.** The commission shall administer this chapter. The
20 powers of the commission under IC 20-12-21 apply to the
21 administration of this chapter, including the power to deny awards
22 under IC 20-12-21-7.6.

23 **Sec. 11.** The commission shall issue an initial award to each
24 qualified applicant for an award.

25 **Sec. 12.** An applicant qualifies for an initial award under this
26 chapter by meeting the following requirements:

- 27 (1) The applicant is domiciled in Indiana, as defined by the
28 commission.
29 (2) The applicant:
30 (A) holds an Indiana academic honors diploma; or
31 (B) is a student in good standing who is engaged in a
32 program that:
33 (i) will be completed by the end of the current
34 academic year; and
35 (ii) will result in the applicant receiving an Indiana
36 academic honors diploma.

- 37 (3) The applicant will use the award to attend an approved
38 institution of higher learning in Indiana.

39 **Sec. 13.** (a) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated
40 for the purpose of awards under this chapter, the amount of an
41 initial or renewal award is as follows:

- 42 (1) For a qualifying student who attends an approved



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1 institution of higher learning operated by the state of
 2 Indiana, fifty percent (50%) of the educational costs for
 3 undergraduates charged by the institution for the academic
 4 year or equivalent for which the award is made, less any
 5 money awarded to the student for the following:

6 (A) A higher education award under IC 20-12-21.

7 (B) A freedom of choice grant established by
 8 IC 20-12-21-15.

9 (C) A hoosier scholar award established by
 10 IC 20-12-21-20.

11 (D) A minority or special education teacher scholarship
 12 under IC 20-12-21.7.

13 (E) A nursing scholarship under IC 20-12-21.9.

14 (2) For a qualifying student who attends an approved
 15 institution of higher learning that is operated as a nonprofit
 16 institution, the average amount determined under
 17 subdivision (1) to attend a state operated institution of higher
 18 learning other than Ivy Tech State College, less any money
 19 awarded to the student under a program listed in subdivision
 20 (1).

21 (b) If money is not available to provide the full award as
 22 established under subsection (a), the commission shall reduce the
 23 award to an amount within available money.

24 **Sec. 14. (a) A person who qualifies for an award is entitled to**
 25 **an award for the equivalent of a total of eight (8) semesters or**
 26 **twelve (12) quarters of postsecondary school education. However,**
 27 **eligibility does not extend more than ten (10) years after the**
 28 **beginning of the academic year for which an initial award is**
 29 **granted.**

30 (b) To maintain eligibility an award recipient is not required
 31 to:

32 (1) attend an institution of higher learning; or

33 (2) receive an award;

34 in consecutive semesters or quarters or on a full-time basis.

35 (c) An award may be renewed only upon application and only
 36 upon the commission's finding the following:

37 (1) The applicant is domiciled in Indiana, as defined by the
 38 commission.

39 (2) The applicant will use the award to attend an approved
 40 institution of higher learning in Indiana.

41 (3) The applicant has successfully completed an academic
 42 year at an approved institution of higher learning in Indiana



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during which the applicant maintained:

(A) a passing grade point average in the applicant's first academic year; or

(B) a "C" grade point average or the equivalent in each year after the applicant's first academic year.

(4) The applicant is in compliance with subsections (a) and (b).

Sec. 15. (a) The auditor of state shall create a separate and segregated Indiana honors diploma scholarship fund. All money disbursed from the fund shall be in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Money remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund but remains available to be used for making higher education awards under this chapter.

SECTION 2. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1998] (a) There is appropriated to the state student assistance commission from the state general fund an amount sufficient to provide Indiana honors diploma higher education awards under IC 20-12-22.3, as added by this act, beginning July 1, 1998, and ending June 30, 1999.

(b) This SECTION expires July 1, 1999.

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