

Legislative Analysis



TUITION GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Phone: (517) 373-8080
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House Bill 4056 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Scott VanSingel
Committee: Education
Complete to 4-11-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

BRIEF SUMMARY: House Bill 4056 would amend 1966 PA 313, the tuition grant act, to allow undergraduate students enrolled in private colleges and universities for the 2020 spring term and the 2020-21 academic year to have two extra semesters of eligibility for the grant.

FISCAL IMPACT: The bill would have an indeterminate impact on the state but could result in increased costs to the Tuition Grant program. Undergraduate students enrolled in private colleges and universities for the 2020-21 academic year or the 2020 spring semester would have two extra semesters of tuition grant eligibility, which could result in increased costs to the state. However, it is unclear what the current enrollment trend has been for tuition grant-eligible students attending private colleges due to the impact of COVID-19 or how many eligible students would use the two extra semesters.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

House Bill 4056 would amend the tuition grant act to allow undergraduate students enrolled in private colleges and universities for the 2020 spring term and the 2020-21 academic year to have two extra semesters of eligibility for the grant.

Currently, eligible Michigan residents are eligible for a grant for tuition and fees at approved private colleges and universities for the equivalent of up to 10 semesters of undergraduate instruction (or up to six semesters of graduate education or up to eight semesters of dental education).¹

The bill would allow undergraduate students two extra semesters of grant eligibility, for a total of up to 12 semesters.

MCL 390.993

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 4056 is a reintroduction of HB 6171 of the 2019-20 legislative session. That bill was reported from the House Ways and Means committee following referral by the House Education committee.

¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/0,4636,7-372--481216--,00.html>

ARGUMENTS:

For:

According to committee testimony, HB 4056 and a related bill, HB 4055, are intended to remove barriers to postsecondary educational opportunities for qualifying students. HB 4056 would allow undergraduate students enrolled in the 2020 spring term and the 2020-21 academic year two extra semesters of Tuition Grant funding, for a total of 12 semesters instead of the typical 10, to minimize the disruption to students' financial aid during and after the pandemic.

Against:

No one testified or voted against the bill in committee.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Department of Treasury (3-2-21)
- Michigan Catholic Conference (3-2-21)
- Michigan Independent Colleges (3-2-21)
- Michigan College Access Network (3-9-21)
- Education Trust–Midwest (3-9-21)
- Michigan Education Association (3-9-21)

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