

HOUSE BILL NO. 6130

May 24, 2022, Introduced by Reps. Anthony, Frederick, Weiss, Brabec, Sowerby, Hood, Brixie, Scott, Hope, Breen, Steenland, Liberati, Coleman, Shannon, Steckloff, Garza, Haadsma, Witwer, Neeley, Ellison, Tisdell, Bellino, Griffin, Martin, Outman and Jones and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to amend 2020 PA 68, entitled "Michigan reconnect grant recipient act," by amending the title and sections 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, and 23 (MCL 390.1711, 390.1713, 390.1715, 390.1716, 390.1717, 390.1718, 390.1721, and 390.1723); and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 TITLE
2 An act to establish certain financial aid programs for certain
3 residents of this state seeking associate degrees or industry-

1 recognized certificates or credentials from certain educational and
 2 jobs training programs; to provide for the administration of the
 3 financial aid programs; ~~and to prescribe certain powers and duties~~
 4 of certain state officers, agencies, and departments; **and to repeal**
 5 **acts and parts of acts.**

6 Sec. 11. (1) This act ~~shall be known and~~ may be cited as the
 7 "Michigan reconnect grant recipient act".

8 (2) The reconnect initiative and the reconnect program created
 9 respectively in this act and the Michigan reconnect grant act, **2020**
 10 **PA 84, MCL 390.1701 to 390.1709**, are intended to provide last-
 11 dollar financial assistance **primarily** to individuals ~~age 25 and~~
 12 ~~older~~ **than traditionally aged undergraduates** seeking associate
 13 degrees or industry-recognized certificates or credentials; to
 14 provide those individuals with greater access to the education and
 15 skills needed to succeed in, and meet the demands of, an evolving
 16 economy in which there is continuing demand for a talented local
 17 workforce; **to drive innovations specific to adult learners in this**
 18 **state's community colleges; to mitigate educational equity gaps in**
 19 **the furtherance of individual prosperity;** and to achieve the goal
 20 of increasing the number of residents ages 25 to 64 with a college
 21 degree or skill certificate or credential to 60% by 2030.

22 **(3) This act is repealed effective 4 years after the date of**
 23 **the amendatory act that added this subsection.**

24 Sec. 13. As used in this act:

25 ~~(a) "Continuous enrollment" means enrollment in at least 2~~
 26 ~~semesters or the equivalent in terms or quarters, as determined by~~
 27 ~~the department, during each 12-month period for a number of~~
 28 ~~consecutive years. For purposes of this subdivision, the 2 or more~~
 29 ~~semesters, terms, or quarters of enrollment within a 12-month~~

1 ~~period need not be consecutive.~~

2 (a) ~~(b)~~—"Department" means the department of labor and
3 economic opportunity.

4 (b) ~~(e)~~—"Eligible institution" means that term as defined in
5 the Michigan reconnect grant act, **2020 PA 84, MCL 390.1701 to**
6 **390.1709.**

7 (c) ~~(d)~~—"Gift aid" means ~~that term as defined in the Michigan~~
8 ~~reconnect grant act.~~ **federal Pell grants under 20 USC 1070a and**
9 **tuition incentive program benefits under section 256 of the school**
10 **aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1856. The term does not**
11 **include any of the following:**

12 (i) Student loans.

13 (ii) Work-study awards.

14 (iii) Qualified withdrawals made from education savings accounts
15 to pay higher education expenses pursuant to the Michigan education
16 savings program act, 2000 PA 161, MCL 390.1471 to 390.1486.

17 (iv) Higher education expenses paid under the Michigan
18 educational trust program, pursuant to the Michigan education trust
19 act, 1986 PA 316, MCL 390.1421 to 390.1442.

20 (v) Higher education expenses paid under the Michigan promise
21 zone authority act, 2008 PA 549, MCL 390.1661 to 390.1679.

22 (vi) Financial aid from any source that is used for nontuition
23 expenses.

24 ~~(c) "Half-time student" means a student enrolled in at least 6~~
25 ~~credit hours in an academic semester or the equivalent number of~~
26 ~~credit hours in a term or quarter, as determined by the department.~~

27 (d) ~~(f)~~—"Industry-recognized certificate or credential" means
28 that term as defined in the Michigan reconnect grant act, **2020 PA**
29 **84, MCL 390.1701 to 390.1709.**

1 (e) ~~(g)~~—"Michigan reconnect grant" means a grant awarded under
2 the Michigan reconnect grant program.

3 (f) ~~(h)~~—"Michigan reconnect grant program" means the grant
4 program created under section 5 of the Michigan reconnect grant
5 act, **2020 PA 84, MCL 390.1705.**

6 (g) ~~(i)~~—"Michigan reconnect grant student" means that term as
7 defined in the Michigan reconnect grant act, **2020 PA 84, MCL**
8 **390.1701 to 390.1709.**

9 (h) ~~(j)~~—"Pell-eligible program" means a program eligible for
10 grant funding under 20 USC 1070a.

11 (i) ~~(k)~~—"Qualified occupational training program" means a
12 ~~course of study~~ **career training program** approved by the department
13 that ~~, subject to subparagraph (vi), prepares students to earn an~~
14 ~~occupational credential that meets all of subparagraphs (i) to (v),~~
15 ~~as follows:~~ **the following:**

16 ~~(i) Is industry recognized.~~

17 ~~(ii) Is portable and recognized by multiple employers.~~

18 ~~(iii) Prepares students to successfully pass all relevant~~
19 ~~certification examinations.~~

20 ~~(iv) Is in demand in the regional labor market.~~

21 ~~(v) Is in an occupational area serving manufacturing,~~
22 ~~construction, information technology, business management, or~~
23 ~~health care.~~

24 ~~(vi) If the course of study is provided by an apprenticeship~~
25 ~~program, the program must be registered with the United States~~
26 ~~Department of Labor under the national apprenticeship act, 29 USC~~
27 ~~50 et seq.~~

28 ~~(l) "Qualified private training institution" means either of~~
29 ~~the following:~~

~~(i) A for profit or nonprofit private organization in this state that provides occupational training, but not 4-year postsecondary degrees, that is included on this state's eligible training provider list located within the department pursuant to 20 CFR 680.410.~~

~~(ii) A consortium of businesses in this state offering occupational training that guarantees employment for those who successfully complete the training and is included on this state's eligible training provider list located within the department pursuant to 20 CFR 680.410.~~

(i) Provides not less than 150, and not more than 600, clock hours of instructional time over a period of not less than 8 weeks and not more than 15 weeks.

(ii) Provides training aligned with the requirements of high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors for occupations in this state as determined by the department in consultation with the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives.

(iii) Is included on this state's eligible training provider list located in the department.

(iv) Provides a student, upon completion of the program, with a recognized postsecondary credential that is stackable and portable across multiple employers and geographic areas.

(v) Has demonstrated that, within 6 months after completing the program, the median income of students who complete the program is at least 20% greater than the median income of all program enrollees 6 months before starting the program.

(vi) For a job training program that prepares students for a professional license or certification exam, has demonstrated that students who complete the program are qualified to take and pass

1 the licensure or certification exam.

2 (vii) Has been in operation for at least 1 year.

3 (viii) For programs offered by institutions of higher education,
4 includes institutional credit articulation for a student in a
5 noncredit job training program.

6 Sec. 15. To establish initial eligibility for a Michigan
7 reconnect grant, an individual must meet all of the following
8 conditions by the date of his or her enrollment described in
9 subdivision (d):

10 (a) Be ~~at least~~ **1 of the following, as applicable:**

11 (i) **At least 21 years old, if the individual submits a Michigan**
12 **reconnect grant application during the period beginning on the**
13 **effective date of the amendatory act that added this subparagraph**
14 **and continuing for 3 years thereafter.**

15 (ii) **At least 25 years old, if the individual submits a**
16 **Michigan reconnect grant application after the 3-year period**
17 **described in subparagraph (i) expires.**

18 (b) Be a resident of this state for at least the immediately
19 preceding year.

20 (c) Have graduated from high school with a diploma or
21 certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency
22 certificate. As used in this subdivision, "high school equivalency
23 certificate" means that term as defined in section 4 of the school
24 aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1604.

25 (d) Be admitted to, and enrolled ~~as at least a half-time~~
26 ~~student in,~~ a Pell-eligible program ~~at an eligible institution~~
27 leading to an associate degree or industry-recognized certificate
28 or credential **at an eligible institution that is not on limited**
29 **program standing under section 5(k) (iv) .**

1 (e) Not have previously earned an associate or baccalaureate
2 degree.

3 (f) Timely complete a Michigan reconnect grant application in
4 a form and manner determined by the department.

5 (g) Timely ~~file~~**complete** the Free Application for Federal
6 Student Aid for the enrollment period described in subdivision (d).

7 (h) Timely apply for all available gift aid for the enrollment
8 period described in subdivision (d).

9 Sec. 16. To establish continuing eligibility for a Michigan
10 reconnect grant at an eligible institution, an individual must meet
11 all of the following conditions:

12 (a) Continue to be a resident of this state.

13 (b) Except as otherwise provided in section 18(1), maintain
14 ~~continuous enrollment as at least a half-time student~~ in a Pell-
15 eligible program at an eligible institution leading to an associate
16 degree or industry-recognized certificate or credential **and earn at**
17 **least 12 credits after each academic year period, once the**
18 **individual begins an academic year. Continuing eligibility under**
19 **this subdivision is not lost if the student continues attending an**
20 **eligible institution that was placed on limited program standing**
21 **under section 5(k)(iv) after the date the student was initially**
22 **enrolled at the institution.**

23 (c) Maintain **satisfactory academic progress as determined by**
24 **the eligible institution or** a 2.0 grade point average ~~in courses~~
25 ~~taken by the individual as~~ **since becoming** a Michigan reconnect
26 grant student.

27 ~~(d) Participate in relevant academic and career advising~~
28 ~~programs offered by the eligible institution.~~

29 **(d)** ~~(e)~~ Timely ~~file~~**complete** the Free Application for Federal

1 Student Aid for each academic year in which he or she applies for a
2 Michigan reconnect grant.

3 **(e)** ~~(f)~~ Timely apply for all available gift aid for each
4 academic year in which he or she applies for a Michigan reconnect
5 grant.

6 Sec. 17. **(1)** ~~Regardless of which community college district~~
7 ~~that a Michigan reconnect grant student resides in, if any, the~~
8 ~~amount of a Michigan reconnect grant must not exceed the cost of~~
9 ~~tuition at the in-district resident rate and mandatory fees at the~~
10 ~~eligible institution attended less all gift aid. Gift aid must be~~
11 ~~credited first to the student's tuition and mandatory fees. The~~
12 **amount of a Michigan reconnect grant awarded to a Michigan**
13 **reconnect grant student under this act must not exceed the lesser**
14 **of the following:**

15 **(a) The student's tuition and mandatory fees minus the**
16 **student's gift aid.**

17 **(b) The eligible institution's in-district tuition and**
18 **mandatory fees for the courses taken by the student, regardless of**
19 **where the student resides, minus the student's gift aid.**

20 **(2)** If awarded, Michigan reconnect grant money must be paid to
21 the eligible institution for credit to the student's account.

22 Sec. 18. (1) A Michigan reconnect grant student who, **with the**
23 **approval of the eligible institution,** takes a leave of absence from
24 ~~an~~ ~~the~~ eligible institution due to a medical or family hardship may
25 ~~, subject to department approval,~~ continue to receive the grant
26 upon resuming the student's education at an eligible institution if
27 the student continues to meet all applicable eligibility
28 requirements. A leave of absence under this subsection does not
29 disrupt the **minimum-credit** requirement ~~of continuous enrollment~~

1 under section 16(b) and does not count toward the 4-year limitation
2 described in subsection (2) (a).

3 (2) A student is eligible for a Michigan reconnect grant until
4 the occurrence of either of the following:

5 (a) Subject to subsection (1), 4 years have passed since the
6 student became a Michigan reconnect grant student.

7 (b) The student has earned an associate degree. For purposes
8 of this subdivision, a student who has earned a certificate or
9 credential at an eligible institution remains eligible for the
10 Michigan reconnect grant if he or she has not yet earned an
11 associate degree.

12 (3) A student who participates in the Michigan reconnect grant
13 program may transfer from 1 eligible institution to another
14 eligible institution without loss of the grant so long as the
15 student continues to meet all eligibility requirements for the
16 grant.

17 **(4) Repayment of any Michigan reconnect grant money received**
18 **by a Michigan reconnect grant student who withdraws from a course**
19 **of study or degree program must be determined in accordance with**
20 **the same rules and process applicable to repayment of scholarship**
21 **or grant money received pursuant to other state tuition financial**
22 **assistance programs described in the department of treasury's *State***
23 ***Programs Procedures Manual - Overview of Operations for Financial***
24 ***Aid Professionals* (March 17, 2022).**

25 Sec. 21. (1) The reconnect private training learning
26 initiative is created in the department for the purpose of
27 providing skills scholarships to individuals eligible for those
28 scholarships under this section. The department shall do all of the
29 following:

1 (a) Develop and implement a process by which those seeking to
 2 participate in the reconnect private training learning initiative
 3 as a qualified private training institution offering qualified
 4 occupational training programs must apply to the department.

5 (b) Approve as a qualified occupational training program a
 6 program for which an application is submitted under subdivision (a)
 7 that meets all of the criteria in section ~~13(k)~~, **13(i)**, and post
 8 these criteria to the department's website.

9 ~~(c) Ensure that an applicant under subdivision (a) is first~~
 10 ~~included on this state's eligible training provider list as a~~
 11 ~~qualified private training institution under section 13(l), before~~
 12 ~~each of the applicant's programs receives separate approval from~~
 13 ~~the department as being a qualified occupational training program~~
 14 ~~under section 13(k).~~

15 (c) ~~(d)~~ Require that qualified private training institutions
 16 accepted to participate in the reconnect private training learning
 17 initiative comply with data requests from the department as a
 18 condition to continued participation. For purposes of this
 19 subdivision, the department shall require institutions operating
 20 apprenticeship programs subject to this act to provide data that
 21 tracks relevant work experience required to verify a student's
 22 status as an apprentice.

23 (d) ~~(e)~~ Maintain on its website a list of all qualified
 24 occupational training program options available to potential skills
 25 scholarship recipients.

26 (e) ~~(f)~~ Award skills scholarships, subject to all of the
 27 following:

28 (i) A skills scholarship is a 1-time grant not to exceed
 29 \$1,500.00 to contribute to tuition costs for a qualified

1 occupational training program at a qualified private training
 2 institution, both of which are approved under this section, for a
 3 training program participant who meets the requirements of
 4 subparagraph (ii). A skills scholarship ~~is available under this~~
 5 ~~section only if the training program participant has applied for~~
 6 ~~all other gift aid, if any is available, and must not cause the~~
 7 ~~total amount of all gift aid, including a skills scholarship~~
 8 ~~awarded under this section, if any, to~~ **must not** exceed the full
 9 amount of the tuition charged for the training program.

10 (ii) To receive the skills scholarship described in
 11 subparagraph (i), a qualified occupational training program
 12 participant must meet all of the following:

13 (A) Be ~~at~~ **1 of the following, as applicable:**

14 **(I) At least 21 years old, if the individual submits a**
 15 **reconnect private training learning initiative skills scholarship**
 16 **application during the period beginning on the effective date of**
 17 **the amendatory act that added this sub-sub-subparagraph and**
 18 **continuing for 3 years thereafter.**

19 **(II) At least 25 years old, if the individual submits a**
 20 **reconnect private training learning initiative skills scholarship**
 21 **application after the 3-year period described in sub-sub-**
 22 **subparagraph (I) expires.**

23 (B) Be a resident of this state for at least the immediately
 24 preceding year.

25 (C) Have graduated from high school with a diploma or
 26 certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency
 27 certificate. As used in this sub-subparagraph, "high school
 28 equivalency certificate" means that term as defined in section 4 of
 29 the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1604.

1 (D) Not have previously earned an associate or baccalaureate
2 degree.

3 (E) Timely complete a reconnect private training learning
4 initiative skills scholarship application in a form and manner
5 determined by the department.

6 ~~(F) Timely apply for all other gift aid, if any is available,~~
7 ~~for the qualified occupational training program.~~

8 (iii) The department may award skills scholarships under this
9 section only until money appropriated to the reconnect private
10 training learning initiative has been fully committed.

11 (f) ~~(g)~~—Inform each recipient of a skills scholarship that he
12 or she will remain eligible for the Michigan reconnect grant
13 program to pursue an associate degree or occupational certificate
14 upon completion of a ~~certification course of a study~~ **training**
15 **program** at a qualified private training institution, and that
16 community colleges will work to convert the coursework completed at
17 a qualified private training institution into community college
18 credit wherever possible.

19 (2) Except as otherwise provided under subsection (3), the
20 department shall promulgate rules to implement subsection (1) (a),
21 (b), and ~~(d)~~ **(c)** only, pursuant to the administrative procedures
22 act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, subject to all of
23 the following:

24 (a) Under subsection (1) (a), the department is limited to
25 developing the form for the application described in subsection
26 (1) (a) and prescribing the time and manner of its completion.

27 (b) Under subsection (1) (b), the department is limited to
28 applying the eligibility criteria described in subsection (1) (b)
29 and shall not apply any other eligibility criteria.

1 (c) Under subsection ~~(1)(d)~~, **(1)(c)**, the department is limited
2 to requiring compliance with data requests as described in
3 subsection ~~(1)(d)~~. **(1)(c)**.

4 (3) To facilitate implementation of the Michigan reconnect
5 grant program prior to final rules being adopted, the department
6 may develop and administer the reconnect private training learning
7 initiative in accordance with its proposed rules or other policy or
8 directive of the department established pursuant to this act.

9 Sec. 23. (1) The annual appropriation for the first full year
10 of the reconnect private training learning initiative must not
11 exceed \$1,500,000.00.

12 (2) The department shall annually submit a written report to
13 both houses of the legislature that explains the results of the
14 initiative. The report must include all of the following for the
15 immediately preceding year:

16 (a) The total number of applicants that sought approval as
17 qualified private training institutions under section 21(1)(a) ~~to~~
18 ~~(e)~~; **and (b)**; the total number of institutions approved; a list of
19 the names of those approved institutions; and the total number and
20 amount of skills scholarships that were awarded by each approved
21 institution.

22 (b) The total number of programs for which applications were
23 submitted for approval as qualified occupational training programs
24 under section 21(1)(a) ~~to (e)~~; **and (b)**; the total number of
25 programs approved; a list of the names or short descriptions of
26 each of those approved programs; and the total number and amount of
27 skills scholarships that were awarded for each approved program.

28 (c) The total number of individuals who applied for skills
29 scholarships under section ~~21(1)(f)(ii)~~; **21(1)(e)(ii)**; the total

1 number of individuals awarded skills scholarships; and the total
2 number of skills scholarships recipients who completed qualified
3 occupational training programs.

4 (d) Any other relevant information, as determined by the
5 department.

6 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
7 unless Senate Bill No. _____ or House Bill No. 6129 (request no.
8 05084'21 *) of the 101st Legislature is enacted into law.