

HOUSE BILL NO. 4377

April 22, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Greene, Thompson, Rheingans, Mentzer, Xiong, Jenkins-Arno, Rigas and Bierlein and referred to Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to amend 2020 PA 68, entitled
"Michigan reconnect grant recipient act,"
by amending sections 11, 15, and 21 (MCL 390.1711, 390.1715, and
390.1721), as amended by 2022 PA 252.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 11. (1) This act may be cited as the "Michigan reconnect
- 2 grant recipient act".
- 3 (2) The reconnect initiative and the reconnect program created
- 4 respectively in this act and the Michigan reconnect grant act, 2020

PA 84, MCL 390.1701 to 390.1709, are intended to provide last-dollar financial assistance to individuals **who, subject to sections 15(a) and 21(1)(e)(ii)(A), are** age ~~25~~**21** and older ~~seeking and seek~~ associate degrees or industry-recognized certificates or credentials; to provide those individuals with greater access to the education and skills needed to succeed in, and meet the demands of, an evolving economy in which there is continuing demand for a talented local workforce; to drive innovations specific to adult learners in this state's community colleges; to mitigate educational equity gaps in the furtherance of individual prosperity; and to achieve the goal of increasing the number of residents ages 25 to 64 with a college degree or skill certificate or credential to 60% by 2030.

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

(a) Be at least 25 years old. **If sufficient funds are appropriated to expand the reconnect program, this minimum-age criterion may be reduced to as low as 21. A reduced minimum-age criterion under this subdivision may not be applied after the state fiscal year ending September 30, 2032.**

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

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

1 (d) Be admitted to, and enrolled in, a Pell-eligible program
2 at an eligible institution leading to an associate degree or
3 industry-recognized certificate or credential.

4 (e) Not have previously earned an associate or baccalaureate
5 degree.

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

8 (g) Timely file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
9 for the enrollment period described in subdivision (d).

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

12 Sec. 21. (1) The reconnect short-term training program is
13 created in the department for the purpose of providing skills
14 scholarships to individuals eligible for those scholarships under
15 this section. The department shall do all of the following:

16 (a) Develop and implement a process by which those seeking to
17 participate in the reconnect short-term training program as a
18 training institution offering qualified occupational training
19 programs must apply to the department.

20 (b) Approve as a qualified occupational training program a
21 program for which an application is submitted under subdivision (a)
22 that meets all of the criteria in section 13(i), and post these
23 criteria to the department's website.

24 (c) Require that training institutions accepted to participate
25 in the reconnect short-term training program comply with data
26 requests from the department as a condition to continued
27 participation. For purposes of this subdivision, the department
28 shall require institutions operating apprenticeship programs
29 subject to this act to provide data that tracks relevant work

1 experience required to verify a student's status as an apprentice.

2 (d) Maintain on its website a list of all qualified
3 occupational training program options available to potential skills
4 scholarship recipients.

5 (e) Award skills scholarships, subject to all of the
6 following:

7 (i) A skills scholarship is a 1-time grant not to exceed
8 \$1,500.00 to contribute to tuition costs for a qualified
9 occupational training program at a training institution, both of
10 which are approved under this section, for a training program
11 participant who meets the requirements of subparagraph (ii). A
12 skills scholarship must not exceed the full amount of the tuition
13 charged for the training program.

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

17 (A) Be at least 25 years old. **If sufficient funds are**
18 **appropriated to expand the reconnect program, this minimum-age**
19 **criterion may be reduced to as low as 21. A reduced minimum-age**
20 **criterion under this sub-subparagraph may not be applied after the**
21 **state fiscal year ending September 30, 2032.**

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

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

29 (D) Not have previously earned an associate or baccalaureate

1 degree.

2 (E) Timely complete a reconnect short-term training program
3 scholarship application in a form and manner determined by the
4 department.

5 (iii) The department may award skills scholarships under this
6 section only until money appropriated to the reconnect short-term
7 training program has been fully committed.

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

15 (2) Except as otherwise provided under subsection (3), the
16 department shall promulgate rules to implement subsection (1)(a),
17 (b), and (c) only, pursuant to the administrative procedures act of
18 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, subject to all of the
19 following:

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

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

26 (c) Under subsection (1)(c), the department is limited to
27 requiring compliance with data requests as described in subsection
28 (1)(c).

29 (3) To facilitate implementation of the Michigan reconnect

1 grant program prior to final rules being adopted, the department
2 may develop and administer the reconnect short-term training
3 program in accordance with its proposed rules or other policy or
4 directive of the department established pursuant to this act.

5 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
6 unless Senate Bill No. ____ (request no. S00937'25 a) or House Bill
7 No. 4378 (request no. H00937'25 a) of the 103rd Legislature is
8 enacted into law.