

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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HOUSE BILL 431
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/16/01
Senate Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 5/16/01
Senate Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute #2 Adopted 5/31/01

Short Title: Financial Assistance for CC Students.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 1, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CODIFY THE NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR
COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS, TO AMEND THE APPLICATION
REQUIREMENTS, AND TO ALLOW THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY
COLLEGES TO TARGET A PORTION OF THE FUNDS TO STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Section 9.4(a) and Section 9.4(b) of S.L. 1999-237 are
codified as G.S. 115D-40.1(a) and G.S. 115D-40.1(b), respectively.

SECTION 2. G.S. 115D-40.1, as codified by Section 1 of this act, reads as
rewritten:

"§ 115D-40.1. Financial Assistance for Community College Students.

(a) Need-Based Assistance Program. – ~~Of the funds appropriated to the
Community Colleges System Office for the 1999-2001 fiscal biennium, the sum of five
million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and the sum of five million
dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2000-2001 fiscal year shall be used to provide the largest
financial need-based student assistance program in the history of the North Carolina
Community College System. Students must apply for federal Pell Grants to be eligible
for this program.~~ It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Community College
System make these financial aid funds available to the neediest students who are not
eligible for other financial aid programs that fully cover the required educational
expenses of these students. The State Board may use some of these funds as short-term
loans to students who anticipate receiving the federal HOPE or Lifetime Learning Tax
Credits.

(b) Targeted Assistance. – Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the
State Board may allocate no more than ten percent (10%) of the funds appropriated for
Financial Assistance for Community College Students to students who do not qualify

1 for need-based assistance but who enroll in low-enrollment programs that prepare
2 students for high-demand occupations.

3 (c) Administration of Program. – The State Board of ~~Community Colleges~~ shall
4 adopt rules and policies for the disbursement of the financial assistance provided in this
5 section. Students must apply for either federal Pell Grants or complete a Free
6 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for consideration for
7 financial assistance. The State Board may contract with the State Education Assistance
8 Authority for administration of these financial assistance funds. These funds shall not
9 revert at the end of each fiscal year but shall remain available until expended for
10 need-based financial assistance.

11 (b) The State Board of ~~Community Colleges~~ shall ensure that at least one
12 counselor is available at each college to inform students about federal programs and
13 funds available to assist community college students including, but not limited to, Pell
14 Grants and HOPE and Lifetime Learning Tax Credits and to actively encourage students
15 to utilize these federal programs and funds."

16 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.