

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

H.B. 1031  
May 2, 2024  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40581-MTa-189

Short Title: Reduce Barriers to College Completion.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Cervania.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE IN-STATE TUITION FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN OF LAWFULLY  
3 ADMITTED OR LAWFULLY PRESENT NONCITIZENS.

4 Whereas, it is projected that by 2030, sixty-seven percent (67%) of jobs will require  
5 a postsecondary degree or credential, underscoring the importance of the educational attainment  
6 goal in North Carolina to have two million North Carolinians between the ages of 25 and 44 with  
7 a postsecondary degree or credential by 2030; and

8 Whereas, on its current trajectory, North Carolina will fall short by at least 71,000  
9 individuals to meet our projected workforce needs; and

10 Whereas, over eighty percent (80%) of employers in the State reported difficulty  
11 finding employees for jobs requiring industry-valued credentials; and

12 Whereas, jobs requiring industry-valued credentials are expected to increase by more  
13 than eleven percent (11%) in the next six years; and

14 Whereas, children of H-1B visa holders who are lawfully admitted or lawfully present  
15 and documented residents receive in-State tuition until they are 21 years old and are not yet  
16 finished with their four-year degrees; and

17 Whereas, immigrant households contribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal,  
18 State, and local taxes that fund our public universities; and

19 Whereas, North Carolina must increase the number of postsecondary-,  
20 public-university-educated individuals so the State can have more potential employees entering  
21 the workforce with industry-valued credentials; Now, therefore,

22 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

23 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 116-143.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

24 "(i1) A person who was lawfully admitted to this State or is lawfully present in this State  
25 and meets the following requirements is eligible to be charged the in-State tuition rate:

26 (1) Has a parent or legal guardian who meets all of the following criteria:

27 a. Was lawfully admitted to the United States or is lawfully present in  
28 the United States.

29 b. Is not a citizen of the United States.

30 c. Holds a valid H-1B visa or L-1 visa.

31 (2) Meets all of the following criteria:

32 a. Either of the following:

33 1. Holds a valid H4 visa.

34 2. All of the following:



- 1 I. Is continuously enrolled at an institution of higher
- 2 education, including any approved leave of absence
- 3 from the institution.
- 4 II. Held a valid H4 visa at some point during the period of
- 5 continuous enrollment.
- 6 III. Was classified as a resident for tuition purposes at some
- 7 point during the period of continuous enrollment.
- 8 b. Establishes domicile in this State under this section."

9 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund for the 2024-2025  
10 fiscal year the following amounts in nonrecurring funds to offset the reduction in tuition receipts  
11 due to additional students receiving in-State tuition pursuant to G.S. 116-143.1(i1), as enacted  
12 by this act:

- 13 (1) Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the Board of Governors of The
- 14 University of North Carolina.
- 15 (2) Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to the Community Colleges
- 16 System Office.

17 **SECTION 2.(b)** Beginning in the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Community Colleges  
18 System Office shall incorporate any losses in estimated receipts resulting from the increased  
19 eligibility for in-State tuition pursuant to Section 1 of this act into its enrollment funding model  
20 without reducing its total requirements.

21 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2024. Except as  
22 otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the  
23 2024-2025 academic year.