

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 59

Short Title: Public Higher Ed. Access.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Block; and Carpenter.

Referred to: Higher Education.

February 12, 1991

1 AN ACT TO ENSURE ACCESS TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION FOR NORTH
2 CAROLINIANS WITH PROVEN ABILITY TO LEARN.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 Section 1. Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
5 Article to read:

6 **“ARTICLE 5B.**

7 **“ACCESS TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION.**

8 **“§ 116-174.9. Tuition, fees; guarantee; eligibility; administration.**

9 (a) The tuition and fees at any constituent institution of The University of North
10 Carolina shall be paid by the State on behalf of any student who enrolls in such an
11 institution to pursue a baccalaureate degree, who applies therefor, and who meets all of
12 the following qualifications:

- 13 (1) Is a resident for tuition purposes pursuant to G.S. 116-143.1.
14 (2) Has a parent or guardian who is a resident of North Carolina.
15 (3) Has graduated from high school within the two years preceding the
16 application with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5
17 calculated on a 4.0 scale.
18 (4) Has successfully completed 16 units of high school coursework (ninth
19 grade level or higher), which constitutes a core curriculum and meets
20 standards for admission to the desired college or university. The core
21 curriculum shall be defined as follows:
22 a. Four course units in college preparatory English,
23 b. Three course units in mathematics, including geometry, Algebra
24 I, and II,

- 1 c. Three course units in science, including at least one unit in life
2 science or biology, at least one unit in physical science, and at
3 least one laboratory course.
- 4 d. Two course units in social studies, including one in government
5 and economics and one in United States history.
- 6 e. Two course units in a single foreign language.
- 7 f. Two course units elected from sub-subdivisions a. through e. of
8 this subdivision.
- 9 (5) Has a composite score on the Scholastic Aptitude Test of at least 900.
- 10 (6) Has no criminal record.
- 11 (7) Is found to be in financial need.
- 12 (b) In each academic year, a constituent institution may provide payment of
13 tuition and fees as provided in this Article for students who meet at least two of the
14 requirements enumerated in subdivisions (3) through (5) of subsection (a) of this section
15 and fail to meet eligibility for the third by an amount equal to ten percent (10%) or less.
16 The total number of these students shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total
17 number of students admitted the previous year who received tuition and fees as
18 provided in this Article.
- 19 (c) To continue to receive State payment of tuition and fees once enrolled in a
20 constituent institution, a student shall meet all of the following:
- 21 (1) Make steady academic progress toward a degree, earning not less than
22 the minimum number of hours of credit required for full time standing
23 in each academic period requiring this enrollment.
- 24 (2) Maintain full-time enrollment standing for not less than two semesters
25 or three quarters in any academic year.
- 26 (3) Rank in the upper fifty percent (50%) of the total number of his
27 classmates in the college in which he is enrolled or the division, if he is
28 not enrolled in a college, within the constituent institution.
- 29 (4) Have no criminal record.
- 30 (d) The provisions of this Article shall be administered by the State Education
31 Assistance Authority, in cooperation with the Board of Governors of The University of
32 North Carolina, or its successor. The State Education Assistance Authority, in
33 cooperation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall
34 adopt rules to administer this Article. These rules shall include:
- 35 (1) A mechanism for informing all students of the availability of the
36 assistance provided pursuant to this section early enough in their
37 schooling that a salutary motivational effect is possible.
- 38 (2) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures, eligibility and other
39 program audit procedures, and other matters related to efficient
40 operation.
- 41 (e) An applicant shall be found to be in financial need if:
- 42 (1) The applicant's custodial parent or guardian has one dependent child
43 under the age of 21 and the four-year average adjusted gross income of
44 the family is less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000).

1 (2) The applicant's custodial parent or guardian has two dependent
2 children under the age of 21 and the four-year average annual adjusted
3 gross income of the family is less than thirty-five thousand dollars
4 (\$35,000).

5 (3) The applicant's custodial parent or guardian has three or more
6 dependent children under the age of 21 and the four-year average
7 annual adjusted gross income of the family is less than forty thousand
8 dollars (\$40,000).

9 The four-year average annual adjusted gross income of the family
10 shall be verified by Internal Revenue Service returns.

11 (f) An appropriation of funds may annually be made to the Board of Governors
12 sufficient to cover, in addition to any other available funds, the costs of tuition and fees
13 required to be paid, both initial and continuing, for the coming academic year. All these
14 payments shall be made directly to the institution to which the tuition is due after notice
15 to the institution that the State shall pay the tuition of a student and after notice from the
16 institution that the student has actually enrolled.

17 (g) The Board of Governors may seek, accept, and expend funds from any
18 source, including private business, industry, foundations, and other groups as well as
19 any federal or other governmental funding available for this purpose.

20 (h) No student shall receive a grant pursuant to this Article in an amount greater
21 than the tuition and fees charged by the institution. The student shall apply for a federal
22 grant prior to receiving State funds."

23 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Education
24 Assistance Authority the sum of \$100,000 for the 1991-92 fiscal year to implement this
25 act.

26 Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1991, and applies to payments
27 made for academic years beginning with the 1992-93 academic year.