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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 4203

03/10/2022 Authored by Bernardy The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Higher Education Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to higher education; expanding eligibility and award amounts for American
1.3 Indian scholarships; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2021
1.4 Supplement, section 136A.126, subdivisions 1, 4; Laws 2021, First Special Session
1.5 chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 7.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 136A.126, subdivision 1, is
1.8 amended to read:

1.9 Subdivision 1. Student eligibility. The commissioner shall establish procedures for the
1.10 distribution of scholarships to a Minnesota resident student as defined under section
1.11 136A.101, subdivision 8, who:

1.12 (1) is of one-fourth or more Indian ancestry or is an enrolled member or citizen of a
1.13 federally recognized American Indian or Canadian First Nations tribe;

1.14 (2) has applied for other existing state and federal scholarship and grant programs;

1.15 (3) is meeting satisfactory academic progress as defined under section 136A.101,
1.16 subdivision 10;

1.17 (4) is not in default, as defined by the office, of a federal or state student educational
1.18 loan;

1.19 (5) if enrolled in an undergraduate program, is eligible or would be eligible to receive
1.20 a federal Pell Grant or a state grant based on the federal needs analysis and is enrolled for
1.21 nine semester credits per term or more, or the equivalent; and

2.1 (6) if enrolled in a graduate program, demonstrates a remaining financial need in the
2.2 award amount calculation and is enrolled, per term, on a half-time basis or more as defined
2.3 by the postsecondary institution.

2.4 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 136A.126, subdivision 4, is amended
2.5 to read:

2.6 Subd. 4. **Award amount.** (a) Each student shall be awarded a scholarship based on the
2.7 federal need analysis. Applicants are encouraged to apply for all other sources of financial
2.8 aid. The amount of the award must not exceed the applicant's cost of attendance, as defined
2.9 in subdivision 3, after deducting:

2.10 (1) the expected family contribution as calculated by the federal need analysis;

2.11 (2) the amount of a federal Pell Grant award for which the applicant is eligible;

2.12 (3) the amount of the state grant;

2.13 (4) the federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant;

2.14 (5) the sum of all institutional grants, scholarships, tuition waivers, and tuition remission
2.15 amounts;

2.16 (6) the sum of all Tribal scholarships;

2.17 (7) the amount of any other state and federal gift aid; and

2.18 (8) the amount of any private grants or scholarships.

2.19 (b) The award shall be paid directly to the postsecondary institution where the student
2.20 receives federal financial aid.

2.21 (c) Awards are limited as follows:

2.22 (1) the maximum award for an undergraduate is ~~\$4,000~~ \$8,000 per academic year;

2.23 (2) the maximum award for a graduate student is ~~\$6,000~~ \$8,000 per academic year; and

2.24 (3) the minimum award for all students is \$100 per academic year.

2.25 (d) Scholarships may not be given to any Indian student for more than three years of
2.26 study for a two-year degree, certificate, or diploma program or five years of study for a
2.27 four-year degree program at the undergraduate level and for more than five years at the
2.28 graduate level. Students may acquire only one degree per level and one terminal graduate
2.29 degree. Scholarships may not be given to any student for more than ten years including five
2.30 years of undergraduate study and five years of graduate study.

3.1 (e) Scholarships may be given to an eligible student for four quarters, three semesters,
 3.2 or the equivalent during the course of a single fiscal year. In calculating the award amount,
 3.3 the office must use the same calculation it would for any other term.

3.4 Sec. 3. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 7, is
 3.5 amended to read:

3.6		3,500,000
3.7	Subd. 7. American Indian Scholarships	3,500,000 <u>.....</u>

3.8 The commissioner must contract with or
 3.9 employ at least one person with demonstrated
 3.10 competence in American Indian culture and
 3.11 residing in or near the city of Bemidji to assist
 3.12 students with the scholarships under
 3.13 Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.126, and
 3.14 with other information about financial aid for
 3.15 which the students may be eligible. Bemidji
 3.16 State University must provide office space at
 3.17 no cost to the Office of Higher Education for
 3.18 purposes of administering the American Indian
 3.19 scholarship program under Minnesota Statutes,
 3.20 section 136A.126. This appropriation includes
 3.21 funding to administer the American Indian
 3.22 scholarship program.