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S.B. 181
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by Senate Higher Education

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Coley

Allison Schoeppner, Research Associate

SUMMARY

- Permits a college or university and employers to establish a workforce-education partnership program to assist students to graduate from college with no student debt.
- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for workforce-education partnership programs.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The bill permits public and private colleges and universities and “employers” to establish workforce-education partnership programs, and requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for colleges and universities and employers to use to establish such programs. The goal of a workforce-education partnership program is to provide assistance to students so that they may graduate from a college or university with no student debt. To do this, participating employers must establish educational assistance programs to provide tuition assistance to students employed by the employer, and colleges and universities must provide assistance to students through mentoring, training, and housing stipends. The Chancellor must address these and other requirements in the template. In creating the template, the Chancellor must consult with state and local workforce and economic development agencies.¹

The template for the program must include the following:

1. The process for an employer to participate in the program;
2. A requirement that, to be eligible to participate in the program, a student be enrolled in a degree-granting program, at a college or university on at least a half-time basis, as determined by the Chancellor, and be a paid employee of an employer participating in the program;

¹ R.C. 3333.93.

3. The process for an eligible student to enroll in the program;
4. Guidance for the college or university to designate a mentor to assist students within the college or university;
5. Guidance for an employer to designate a mentor to assist students at the employer's workplace;
6. Guidance for the college or university and employers to create a process to make a housing stipend available to students enrolled in the program;
7. Guidance for the college or university and employers to make life management and professional skills training available to students enrolled in the program;
8. A requirement that an employer establish an educational assistance program in accordance with federal law and provide tuition assistance for a student enrolled at the college or university while working for the employer, up to the maximum amount that the employer may exclude from the employer's gross income under that law;²
9. A requirement that the college or university work with students enrolled in the program to ensure that the students have applied for and are receiving the maximum amount of financial aid, in the form of scholarships and grants, that the students are eligible to receive to cover the student's costs to attend the college or university; and
10. A requirement that the college or university and employers seek out additional sources of funding to cover any remaining costs to attend the college or university that are not covered by tuition assistance or financial aid for students enrolled in the program.³

The bill requires the Chancellor to evaluate the effectiveness of the workforce-education partnership programs established under the bill to determine whether additional training and employment programs may use the Chancellor's template to establish workforce-education partnership programs.⁴

As used by the bill, the term "colleges and universities" includes any state institution of higher education and any private nonprofit or for-profit college or university.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	08-09-19
Reported, S. Higher Education	10-30-19

S0181-RS-133/ks

² See 26 United States Code 127.

³ R.C. 3333.93(B).

⁴ R.C. 3333.93(C).

⁵ R.C. 3333.93(A). See R.C. 3345.011 and 3365.01, neither in the bill.