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S.B. 69
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Williams

Mike Niemi, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

- Permits Ohio residents enrolled in a noncredit community college or state community college program to be eligible to receive an Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG).
- Specifies that OCOG aid may be provided to an eligible community college student only if the student is meeting progress standards adopted by the Chancellor of Higher Education.
- Requires the Chancellor to establish policies and procedures for awarding credit for career or technical certification programs offered by community colleges or state community colleges and applying that credit toward an associate degree in a related field.
- Specifies that educational service standards adopted by the Chancellor must require community colleges or state community colleges to award credit for career or technical certification programs and to apply that credit toward an associate degree in a related field in accordance with the Chancellor's policies and procedures.
- Clarifies, by adding the word "dollars," that to be eligible for OCOG the Ohio resident applying for OCOG program aid must have an expected family contribution of \$2,190 or less.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Expanded eligibility for Ohio College Opportunity Grants

The bill qualifies Ohio residents enrolled in a community college or state community college program for which credit is not awarded for an Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG). The OCOG program is a state program of needs-based financial assistance to Ohio residents in

nursing degree and undergraduate programs.¹ Under the bill, enrollment in an undergraduate program includes enrollment at a community college or state community college in a career and technical program for an in-demand job.²

Progress standards

Community college students eligible under the bill for the needs-based financial aid under OCOG are subject to the same application process, financial need determination procedure, and award process as in current law for other eligible students. However, the bill specifies that aid under OCOG may be provided to an eligible student in a noncredit program only as long as the student is meeting progress standards adopted by the Chancellor of Higher Education. Current law specifies that aid may be provided to an eligible student only as long as the student is making appropriate progress toward a nursing diploma or an associate or bachelor's degree.³

Chancellor's duties

The bill requires the Chancellor to establish policies and procedures for awarding credit for career or technical certification programs that are offered by community colleges and state community colleges. The Chancellor also must establish policies and procedures for applying that credit toward an associate degree in a related field.⁴

Community college standards

Current law requires the Chancellor to adopt educational service standards for higher education institutions regarding such topics as career and technical programs, noncredit continuing education opportunities, college transfer programs, and student fees. Under the bill, the standards adopted for community colleges and state community colleges that address programs to prepare individuals for specific technical or paraprofessional careers must require the colleges to do the following:

- Award credit for career or technical certification programs;
- Apply that credit toward an associate degree in a related field.

Credit awarded and applied to an associate degree must be done in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Chancellor under the bill.⁵

¹ R.C. 3333.122; R.C. 3333.123 and 3333.124, not in the bill.

² R.C. 3333.122(B)(2)(a).

³ R.C. 3333.122(C)(2).

⁴ R.C. 3333.168.

⁵ R.C. 3333.20(A)(1).

Expected family contribution clarification

The bill clarifies that to be eligible for OCOG the Ohio resident must have an expected family contribution of \$2,190 or less. Current law does not include the word “dollars.”⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-17-21

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⁶ R.C. 3333.122(B)(1).