

CHAPTER 115**(HB 40)**

AN ACT relating to student financial aid.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 164.753 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) In the instance of loans, the rules and regulations adopted by the board may include, but not be limited to, those which:
 - (a) Are necessary to qualify the authority as an insured lender under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended;
 - (b) Require that loans be made only to those eligible students who are unable to secure comparable loans from private lenders; and
 - (c) Are necessary to qualify the authority as a lender under the Public Health Service Act, as amended.
- (2) In the instance of insured student loans and loan guarantees, the rules and regulations adopted by the board shall include, but not be limited to, those which are necessary to qualify the authority to insure loans under the federal act, as amended, and following such qualification to issue loan guarantees to participating lenders on any loans advanced by such lenders to eligible students attending or planning to attend any participating institution, except that the total amount of all insured student loans that may be guaranteed by the authority shall not at any time exceed fifteen (15) times the loan guarantee fund balance. In determining the total amount of insured student loans that may be guaranteed by the authority, there shall be excluded from the computation of required loan guarantee fund balances eighty percent (80%) of the amount of insured student loans which are reinsured with the United States or any agency thereof pursuant to the federal act.
- (3) In the instance of scholarships, the rules and regulations adopted by the board shall include, but not be limited to, those which:
 - (a) Specify ways in which superior academic achievement or ability or special talents will be identified and measured;
 - (b) Ensure that the amount of scholarship to a student attending or planning to attend a participating institution will not exceed the financial need of the student as determined in accordance with paragraph (f) of this subsection, or the maximum scholarship as established by the board, whichever is less;
 - (c) Restrict scholarships to persons who are classified as resident students under the rules and regulations of the Council on Postsecondary Education ~~and are not planning to enroll or are not enrolled in a program of study leading to a certificate, diploma or degree in theology, divinity or religious education~~;
 - (d) Ensure that scholarships are awarded only to eligible students who have applied for such federal, state, or institutional student financial assistance programs as the authority may require;
 - (e) Ensure that scholarships are awarded only to eligible students who are planning to enroll, accepted for enrollment, or are enrolled as full-time students in a participating institution; and

- (f) Ensure, by such needs analysis as the authority may require, that the person is in need of the assistance in order to enroll in or complete an eligible program of study as defined by the board.
- (4) In the instance of grants, the rules and regulations adopted by the board shall include, but not be limited to, those which:
 - (a) Ensure that the amount of a grant to a student will not exceed the financial need of the student as determined in accordance with paragraph (e) of this subsection or the maximum grant as established by the board, whichever is less;
 - (b) Restrict grants to persons who are classified as resident students under the rules and regulations of the Council on Postsecondary Education ~~and are not planning to enroll or are not enrolled in a program of study leading to a certificate, diploma, or degree in theology, divinity, or religious education~~;
 - (c) Ensure that grants are awarded only to eligible students who have applied for such federal, state, or institutional student financial assistance programs as the authority may require;
 - (d) Ensure that grants are awarded only to eligible students who are planning to enroll, accepted for enrollment, or are enrolled as full-time students in a participating institution; and
 - (e) Ensure, by such needs analysis as the authority may require, that grants be made only to students who have insufficient financial resources to enroll in or complete an eligible program of study as defined by the board.
 - (5) Funds appropriated to the financial assistance program established by KRS 164.780 and 164.785 shall be administered by the board in accordance with the provisions of KRS 164.780 and 164.785.
 - (6) In the instance of work-study payments, rules and regulations adopted by the board shall include, but not be limited to, those which require that:
 - (a) The employment opportunity available for the student will not interfere with the student's normal progress toward a degree, diploma, or certificate;
 - (b) Contracts to promote increased employment opportunities for eligible students will not result in the displacement of employed workers or impair existing contracts for services; and
 - (c) The work-study payment will not exceed the financial need of the student or the maximum payment as established by the board, whichever is less.

Section 2. KRS 164.769 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a teacher scholarship program to assist highly qualified individuals to become certified Kentucky teachers and render teaching service in Kentucky schools.
- (2) For purposes of this section, the terms listed below shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) "Critical shortage area" means an understaffing of teachers in particular subject matters at the secondary level, in grade levels, or in geographic locations at the elementary and secondary level, as determined by the commissioner of education in consultation with the authority. The commissioner and the authority may use any

source considered reliable including, but not limited to, local education agencies to identify the critical shortage areas.

- (b) "Eligible program of study" means an undergraduate or graduate program of study which is preparatory to initial teacher certification~~[, but does not lead to a certificate, diploma, or degree in theology, divinity, or religious education].~~
 - (c) "Expected family contribution" means the amount that a student and his family are expected to contribute toward the cost of the student's education determined by applying methodology set forth in 20 U.S.C. sec. 1087 kk to 1087 vv.
 - (d) "Participating institution" means an institution of higher education located in Kentucky which offers an eligible program of study and has in force an agreement with the authority providing for administration of this program.
 - (e) "Qualified teaching service" means teaching the major portion of each school day for at least seventy (70) days each semester in a public school of the Commonwealth or a private school certified pursuant to KRS 156.160(3), except that an individual having a disability defined by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. secs. 12131 et seq.), whose disability, certified by a licensed physician, prevents that individual from teaching a major portion of each school day, shall be deemed to perform qualified teaching service by teaching the maximum time permitted by the attending physician.
 - (f) "Semester" means a period of about eighteen (18) weeks, which usually makes up one-half (1/2) of a school year or one-half (1/2) of a participating institution's academic year.
 - (g) "Summer term" means an academic period consisting of one (1) or more sessions of instruction between a spring and a fall semester.
- (3) The authority may, to the extent of appropriations and other funds available to it pursuant to subsection (9) of this section, award teacher scholarships to persons eligible under subsection (4) of this section, who initially demonstrate financial need in accordance with standards and criteria established by the authority or received teacher scholarships pursuant to this section prior to July 1, 1996. Each teacher scholarship shall be evidenced by a promissory note that requires repayment or cancellation pursuant to subsection (6) of this section.
- (4) Kentucky residents who are United States citizens and enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible program of study on a full-time basis at a participating institution shall be eligible to apply for and be awarded teacher scholarships. Teacher scholarships shall first be awarded to highly qualified eligible students who meet standards and requirements established by the Education Professional Standards Board pursuant to KRS 161.028 for admission to a teacher education program at a participating institution or who received teacher scholarships pursuant to this section prior to July 1, 1996. If funds are not depleted after awarding teacher scholarships to students who meet the preceding criteria, then awards shall be made to any otherwise eligible students seeking admission to a teacher education program.
- (5) The authority shall establish, by administrative regulation, the maximum amount of scholarship to be awarded for each semester and summer term under this section, and shall prorate the amount awarded to any student enrolled less than full-time in accordance with

paragraph (6)(a) of this section. The aggregate amount of scholarships awarded to an individual shall not exceed twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) for undergraduate students and seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) for postbaccalaureate students, except that the aggregate amount of scholarships awarded to an individual who received teacher scholarships pursuant to this section prior to July 1, 1996, including any amount received pursuant to KRS 156.611, 156.613, 164.768, or 164.770, shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), and the amount of each scholarship to be awarded shall not exceed the applicant's total cost of education minus other financial assistance received or expected to be received by the applicant during the academic period.

- (6) (a) The authority shall disburse teacher scholarships to eligible students who agree to render qualified teaching service as certified teachers, and are unconditionally admitted and enrolled in an eligible program of study on a full-time basis, except that disbursements may be made to otherwise eligible students enrolled less than full-time in the semester or summer term in which the eligible program of study will be completed or otherwise eligible students having a disability defined by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. secs. 12131 et seq.), who have been certified by a licensed physician to be unable to attend the eligible program of study full-time because of the disability. Teacher scholarships shall be disbursed to eligible students who received teacher scholarships pursuant to this section for recertification in a critical shortage area prior to July 1, 1996, who are enrolled in and continuing toward completion of their program of study, and who agree to render qualified teaching service as certified teachers.
- (b) A teacher scholarship shall not be awarded or a promissory note cancellation shall not be granted to any person who is in default on any obligation to the authority under any program administered by the authority pursuant to KRS 164.740 to 164.785 until financial obligations to the authority are satisfied, except that ineligibility for this reason may be waived by the authority for cause.
- (c) Recipients shall render one (1) semester of qualified teaching service for each semester or summer term of scholarship received, except that recipients who teach in a critical shortage area designated by the authority shall render one (1) semester of qualified teaching service as repayment for two (2) semesters or summer terms of scholarships received. Upon completion of each semester of qualified teacher service, the authority shall cancel the appropriate number of promissory notes.
- (d) If the recipient of a teacher scholarship fails to complete an eligible program of study at a participating institution or fails to render qualified teaching service in any semester following certification or recertification, unless the failure is temporarily waived for cause by the authority, the recipient shall immediately become liable to the authority for repayment of the sum of all outstanding promissory notes and accrued interest. Persons liable for repayment of scholarships under this paragraph shall be liable for interest accruing from the dates on which the teacher scholarships were disbursed.
- (e) Recipients who have outstanding loans or scholarships under KRS 156.611, 156.613, 164.768, or 164.770 respectively, and who render qualified teaching service, shall have their notes canceled in accordance with subsection (6)(c) of this section.

- (f) The authority shall establish, by administrative regulation, the terms and conditions for the award, cancellation, and repayment of teacher scholarships including, but not limited to, the selection criteria, eligibility for renewal awards, amount of scholarship payments, deferments, the rate of repayment, and the interest rate thereon.
- (g) Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, the maximum interest rate applicable to repayment of a promissory note under this section shall be twelve percent (12%) per annum, except that if a judgment is rendered to recover payment, the judgment shall bear interest at the rate of five percent (5%) greater than the rate actually charged on the promissory note.
- (7) A repayment obligation imposed by this section shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the recipient at the time of receiving the teacher scholarship.
- (8) Failure to meet repayment obligations imposed by this section shall be cause for the revocation of a person's teaching certificate, subject to the procedures set forth in KRS 161.120.
- (9) All moneys repaid to the authority under this section shall be added to the appropriations made for purposes of this section, and the funds and unobligated appropriations shall not lapse.
- (10) The authority may execute appropriate contracts and promissory notes for administering this section.
- (11) If available funds are insufficient for all requested scholarships for eligible applicants during any fiscal year, the authority shall give priority consideration to eligible applicants who previously received teacher scholarships. If funds are insufficient to make all requested renewal scholarships to eligible applicants, the authority shall reduce all scholarship awards to the extent necessary to provide scholarships to all qualified renewal applicants. If, after awarding all eligible renewal applicants, funds are not depleted, initial applications shall be ranked according to regulatory selection criteria, which may include expected family contribution and application date, and awards shall be made to highly qualified applicants until funds are depleted.

Section 3. KRS 164.785 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The State of Kentucky shall grant an amount as provided in KRS 164.780 and this section to any applicant who meets the following qualifications:
 - (a) Is a Kentucky resident as defined by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education;
 - (b) Has been accepted by or is enrolled as a full time student in a Kentucky independent college or university which is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and whose institutional programs are not comprised solely of a sectarian instruction. An otherwise eligible student having a disability defined by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. secs. 12131 et seq.), certified by a licensed physician to be unable to attend the eligible program of study full-time because of the disability may also qualify under this paragraph; **and**
 - (c) ~~Is not enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education; and~~

- ~~(d)~~ Has not previously attended college or university for more than seven (7) semesters or the equivalent.
- (2) The amount of the tuition grant to be paid to a student each semester, or appropriate academic term, shall be determined by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.
 - (3) The maximum amount shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the average state appropriation per full-time equivalent student enrolled in all public institutions of higher education. Such tuition grants are to be calculated annually by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.
 - (4) The need of each applicant shall be determined by acceptable need analysis such as the parents' confidential statement of the college scholarship service, and such other analyses as the authority may determine, subject to the approval by the United States Secretary of Education.
 - (5) An adjustment shall be made in the tuition grant of any student awarded a scholarship from any other source provided the combination of grants and awards exceeds the calculated need of the student.

Section 4. KRS 164.7874 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885:

- (1) "Academic term" means a semester or other time period specified in an administrative regulation promulgated by the council;
- (2) "Academic year" means a period consisting of at least the minimum school term, as defined in KRS 158.070;
- (3) "ACT score" means the composite score achieved on the American College Test at a national test site on a national test date or an equivalent score, as determined by the council, on the Scholastic Assessment Test;
- (4) "Authority" means the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority;
- (5) "Award period" means two (2) consecutive academic terms;
- (6) "Base scholarship amount" means that amount earned by an eligible high school student pursuant to KRS 164.7879 in each academic year as determined by the grade point average earned and reported by the high school at the end of the academic year;
- (7) "Council" means the Council on Postsecondary Education created under KRS 164.011;
- (8) "Eligible high school student" means any person who:
 - (a) Is a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and Kentucky resident;
 - (b) Was enrolled after July 1, 1998:
 1. In a Kentucky high school, at least one hundred forty (140) days of the minimum school term unless exempted by the authority's executive director upon documentation of extreme hardship, while meeting the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship curriculum requirements, and was enrolled in a Kentucky high school at the end of the academic year;

2. In a Kentucky high school for the fall academic term of the senior year and who:
 - a. Was enrolled during the entire academic term;
 - b. Completed the high school's graduation requirements during the fall academic term; and
 - c. Was not enrolled in a secondary school during any other academic term of that academic year;
 3. Has a grade point average of 2.5 or above at the end of any academic year beginning after July 1, 1998, or at the end of the fall academic term for a student eligible under subparagraph 2. of this paragraph; and
- (c) Is not a convicted felon;
- (9) "Eligible postsecondary student" means a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and Kentucky resident, as determined by the participating institution in accordance with criteria established by the council for the purposes of admission and tuition assessment, who:
- (a) Earned a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship base, supplemental, or base and supplemental final award;
 - (b) Has the required postsecondary G.P.A. required under KRS 164.7881;
 - (c) Has remaining semesters of eligibility under KRS 164.7881;
 - (d) Is enrolled in a participating institution as a part-time or full-time student; and
 - (e) Is not a convicted felon;
- (10) "Full-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study that meets the full-time student requirements of the participating institution in which the student is enrolled;
- (11) "Grade point average" means the grade point average earned by an eligible student and reported by the high school or participating institution in which the student was enrolled based on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent if the high school or participating institution that the student attends does not use the 4.0 grade scale;
- (12) "High school" means any Kentucky public high school, and any private, parochial, or church school located in Kentucky that has been certified by the Kentucky Board of Education as voluntarily complying with curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board of Education under KRS 156.160;
- (13) "KEES" means Kentucky educational excellence scholarship;
- (14) "KEES curriculum" means five (5) courses of study in an academic year as determined by administrative regulation promulgated by the council;
- (15) "Kentucky educational excellence scholarship" means a scholarship provided under KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885;
- (16) "Kentucky educational excellence scholarship trust fund" means the Wallace G. Wilkinson Kentucky educational excellence scholarship trust fund;
- (17) "Maximum award amount" means the sum of the base scholarship amount earned by an eligible high school student in each academic year of high school study plus any

supplemental award earned by an eligible high school student or earned pursuant to KRS 164.7879(3)(c). The amount so determined shall be the maximum amount available to the eligible postsecondary student for any award period;

- (18) "Participating institution" means an "institution" as defined in KRS 164.001 that actively participates in the federal Pell Grant program, executes a contract with the authority on terms the authority deems necessary or appropriate for the administration of its programs, and:
- (a) 1. Is publicly operated; or
 2. Is licensed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has operated for at least ten (10) years, offers an associate or baccalaureate degree program of study not comprised solely of sectarian instruction, and admits as regular students only high school graduates or recipients of a general equivalency diploma or students transferring from another accredited degree granting institution; or
 3. Is designated by the Council on Postsecondary Education as an approved out-of-state institution that offers a degree program in a field of study that is not offered at any institution in the Commonwealth; and
- (b) Continues to commit financial resources to student financial assistance programs and provides annual documentation to the authority of compliance;
- (19) "Part-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study who does not meet the full-time student requirements of the participating institution in which the student is enrolled and who is enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours or the equivalent for an institution that does not use credit hours; and
- (20) "Supplemental award" means commitment of scholarship funds under KRS 164.7879(3).

Section 5. KRS 164A.240 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) As used in this section, the term "eligible borrower" shall mean a student, and the parent of a dependent student, who demonstrates an intention and capacity to repay the loan. The student shall be a Kentucky resident enrolled or accepted for enrollment, on at least a half-time basis, at an eligible institution, making satisfactory progress toward completion of a program leading to a certificate, degree or diploma~~[other than theology, divinity, or religious education]~~.
- (2) In addition to the authority granted by KRS 164A.010 to 164A.230, the corporation is authorized to establish, finance and operate such educational loan programs as the Higher Education Assistance Authority shall deem necessary in order to make available additional educational loans, which shall not be insured student loans as that term is defined by KRS 164A.020 to meet the financial needs of eligible borrowers. The corporation may, in connection with the program, enter into agreements with loan servicing organizations, guarantors, insurers, financial institutions, eligible lenders and eligible institutions. The educational loan programs may provide for either the making of educational loans directly to eligible institutions and the relending to eligible borrowers or the making and purchasing of educational loans by the corporation.
- (3) The corporation may promulgate necessary rules and regulations as shall be required to administer any such program on a financially sound basis, including the requiring of

guarantees, cosigning by parents or guardians, nongovernmental loan insurance if available, collateral pledges and other security provisions deemed requisite in the circumstances.

- (4) The corporation may finance the educational loan programs through the issuance of its bonds or notes subject to the provisions set forth in KRS 164A.010 to 164A.230, provided that the proceeds of the bonds may be used for the educational loan programs and shall not be commingled with the proceeds of bonds or notes financing insured student loans as defined by KRS 164A.020. The bonds or notes issued under the provisions of this subsection shall be special and limited obligations, payable solely and only from the receipts pledged and shall not constitute an indebtedness or liability of the Commonwealth or a pledge of the faith and credit of the Commonwealth.
- (5) No bonds or notes may be issued by the corporation for the purpose of financing a nongovernmentally insured education loan pursuant to this section except upon a finding by the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission that the loans are necessary to meet the financial needs of Kentucky residents to obtain a postsecondary education. In making the determination of need the Governor and Legislative Research Commission shall consider the availability of other student assistance resources.
- (6) The maximum annual loan amount shall not exceed the costs incurred by the eligible borrower related to attendance less other financial aid, as certified by the eligible institution, or a lesser amount established by the board. The loan proceeds shall be used by the eligible borrower solely for those costs of attendance.
- (7) The corporation may issue taxable bonds or notes for the financing of any program authorized by this chapter.
- (8) The Higher Education Assistance Authority shall provide the services as the corporation may require to efficiently carry out the purposes of this section.

Approved March 18, 2003