

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE DRS55584-LH-277A* (4/9)

Short Title: Leg. Tuition Grant/Redefine Part-Time Student. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Swindell.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REDEFINE THE TERM "PART-TIME STUDENT" FOR PURPOSES
OF THE LEGISLATIVE TUITION GRANT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 116-21.2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 116-21.2. Legislative tuition grants to aid students and licensure students attending private institutions of higher education.

(a) Grants for Students. – In addition to any funds appropriated pursuant to G.S. 116-19 and in addition to all other financial assistance made available to institutions, or to persons attending these institutions, there is granted to each North Carolina undergraduate student attending an approved institution as defined in G.S. 116-22, a sum, to be determined by the General Assembly for each academic year which shall be distributed to the undergraduate student as provided by this subsection. A full-time North Carolina undergraduate student shall be awarded the full amount of the tuition grant provided by this section. A part-time North Carolina undergraduate student who is enrolled to take at least ~~nine~~six hours of academic credit per semester shall be awarded a tuition grant in an amount that is calculated on a pro rata basis.

(a1) Grants for Licensure Students. – The legislative tuition grant provided by this section shall also be granted to each full-time licensure student who is enrolled in a program intended to result in a license in teaching or nursing at an approved institution. The legislative tuition grant provided by this section shall be awarded on a pro rata basis to any part-time licensure student who is enrolled to take at least ~~nine~~six hours of undergraduate academic credit per semester in a program intended to result in a license in teaching or nursing at an approved institution. The legislative tuition grant and prorated legislative tuition grant authorized under this subsection shall be paid for undergraduate courses only. If a course is required for licensure, but is designated as

1 both an undergraduate and graduate course, for purposes of this subsection, the course
2 shall be considered an undergraduate course.

3 (b) Administration of Grants. – The tuition grants provided for in this section
4 shall be administered by the State Education Assistance Authority pursuant to rules
5 adopted by the State Education Assistance Authority not inconsistent with this section.
6 The State Education Assistance Authority shall not approve any grant until it receives
7 proper certification from an approved institution that the student or licensure student
8 applying for the grant is eligible. Upon receipt of the certification, the State Education
9 Assistance Authority shall remit at the times as it prescribes the grant to the approved
10 institution on behalf, and to the credit, of the student or licensure student.

11 (c) Student or Licensure Student Change of Status; Audits. – In the event a
12 full-time student on whose behalf a grant has been paid in accordance with subsection
13 (a) of this section or a full-time licensure student on whose behalf a grant has been paid
14 in accordance with subsection (a1) of this section is not enrolled and carrying a
15 minimum academic load as of the tenth classroom day following the beginning of the
16 school term for which the grant was paid, the institution shall refund the full amount of
17 the grant to the State Education Assistance Authority. If a part-time student on whose
18 behalf a prorated grant has been paid in accordance with subsection (a) of this section or
19 a part-time licensure student on whose behalf a prorated grant has been paid in
20 accordance with subsection (a1) of this section is not enrolled and carrying a minimum
21 academic load of ~~nine~~-six credit hours per semester in the undergraduate class as of the
22 tenth classroom day following the beginning of the school term for which the grant was
23 paid, the institution shall refund the full amount of the grant to the State Education
24 Assistance Authority. If the matriculated status of a full-time student or a full-time
25 licensure student changes to a matriculated status of part-time student or part-time
26 licensure student by the tenth classroom day following the beginning of the school term
27 for which the grant was paid, the institution shall refund only the difference between the
28 amount of the full-time grant awarded and the amount of the part-time grant that is
29 awarded pursuant to this section. Each approved institution shall be subject to
30 examination by the State Auditor for the purpose of determining whether the institution
31 has properly certified eligibility and enrollment of students and licensure students and
32 credited grants paid on behalf of them.

33 (d) Shortfall. – In the event there are not sufficient funds to provide each eligible
34 student or licensure student with a full or prorated grant as provided by subsection (a) of
35 this section or a full or a prorated grant as provided by subsection (a1) of this section:

- 36 (1) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, with the
37 approval of the Office of State Budget and Management, may transfer
38 available funds to meet the needs of the programs provided by
39 subsections (a), (a1), and (b) of this section; and
40 (2) Each eligible student and licensure student shall receive a pro rata
41 share of funds then available for the remainder of the academic year
42 within the fiscal period covered by the current appropriation.

43 (e) Reversions. – Any remaining funds shall revert to the General Fund."

1 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008, and applies to
2 academic semesters beginning on or after that date.