



Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch

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10000HB3447ham001

LRB100 11388 MLM 25175 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 3447

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 3447 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Tuition Reduction Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative intent.

7 (a) The General Assembly recognizes that this State's
8 higher education system plays a critical role in ensuring this
9 State's continued leadership role in driving economic
10 prosperity, innovation, and opportunity. By educating citizens
11 for living wage jobs, producing world-class research, and
12 helping to create vibrant communities, this State's
13 institutions of higher education form a foundational component
14 in ensuring prosperity for our citizens.

15 (b) The General Assembly also recognizes the importance of
16 prioritizing scarce resources for the core, front-line

1 services that higher education institutions provide, namely
2 instruction, research, and robust financial aid. During times
3 of economic downturn, policymakers must focus on those areas of
4 public service that have the most direct and immediate impact
5 on students. Keeping class sections open, attracting the best
6 professors and instructors, providing comprehensive support
7 services, and offering meaningful financial help to offset the
8 costs of attending college must be the main concerns of
9 policymakers. It is for these reasons that the General Assembly
10 intends to refocus its commitment to direct aid to students and
11 continue efforts to make college more affordable.

12 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

13 "Student" means a full-time resident undergraduate student
14 enrolled at a university.

15 "University" means a public university located in this
16 State.

17 Section 15. Tuition grants.

18 (a) Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, each
19 university must reimburse a portion of the tuition charged to
20 students as provided in this subsection (a). Reimbursement
21 shall be in the form of a grant applied directly to a student's
22 financial aid account. To determine the per-pupil grant amount,
23 the university shall calculate the difference, if any, between
24 the current fiscal year's aggregate appropriations to the

1 university for operations and fiscal year 2002's aggregate
2 appropriations to the university for operations and divide that
3 amount by the number of students enrolled on the tenth day of
4 the previous academic year. Fifty percent of this calculation
5 then equals the per-pupil grant amount, to be awarded to
6 currently enrolled students to reduce their tuition costs.
7 However, if the current fiscal year's aggregate appropriations
8 to the university for operations are equal to or less than
9 fiscal year 2002's aggregate appropriations for operations,
10 then the university is not required to award any grants under
11 this subsection (a) in a given academic year.

12 (b) On or before September 1, 2018 and on or before
13 September 1 each year thereafter, each university shall report
14 updated estimates of the total amount in grants awarded under
15 subsection (a) of this Section in an academic year to the
16 Governor and the appropriate committees of the General
17 Assembly.

18 (c) If the General Assembly increases funding for each
19 university for 4 consecutive years, the Board of Higher
20 Education shall report to the General Assembly on whether or
21 not this Act should be repealed.

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
23 becoming law."