



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 607

Chairperson: Greg Adams
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: March 3, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 607 creates the Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program Act. The act provides for merit-based scholarships for eligible Nebraska students attending in-state, non-profit public or private postsecondary educational institutions. The academic scholarship offered under the act shall be in the amount of \$1,500, and the institution in which the recipient has enrolled shall provide an additional scholarship equal in value. Scholarships will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Students who are enrolled, or have been accepted for enrollment at a qualifying institution, and who score at least a 28 on their ACT may be eligible for a scholarship under the act. The scholarships are limited to undergraduate students who have not already earned a baccalaureate degree. The initial scholarship may be renewed for up to three additional years if the student maintains a 3.25 grade-point average as a full-time student.

Under LB 607, a student may transfer from one eligible institution to another without losing the academic scholarship. However, the institution to which the student transfers would not be required to provide the matching scholarship.

The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education would be responsible for administering the Higher Education Academic Scholarship Act.

LB 607 establishes the Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program Fund. To carry out the act, the Legislature shall appropriate \$2.5 million in FY2010-11 and \$5 million in FY2011-12.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Tim Gay