



February 6, 2015

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## HOUSE BILL No. 1231

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DIGEST OF HB 1231 (Updated February 3, 2015 12:28 pm - DI 116)

**Citations Affected:** IC 21-12; noncode.

**Synopsis:** Accelerated degree programs. Provides for a higher education award for students who participate in an accelerated degree program. Specifies that a student receiving the award may not receive a Frank O'Bannon award. Appropriates \$1,000,000 in state fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 to the commission for higher education to award grants to state educational institutions for implementing 36 month baccalaureate degree programs that are approved by the commission.

**Effective:** July 1, 2015.

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## Huston, Austin, Behning, Smith V

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January 13, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.  
February 5, 2015, reported — Do Pass. Referred to Committee on Ways and Means pursuant to Rule 127.

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HB 1231—LS 6480/DI 58





February 6, 2015

First Regular Session of the 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1231

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education and to make an appropriation.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 21-12-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.281-2013,  
2 SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 1. (a) An applicant is eligible for a first year  
4 higher education award under this chapter if the student meets the  
5 following requirements:  
6 (1) The applicant is a resident of Indiana, as defined by the  
7 commission.  
8 (2) The applicant:  
9 (A) has successfully completed the program of instruction at  
10 an approved secondary school;  
11 (B) has been granted a:  
12 (i) high school equivalency certificate before July 1, 1995;  
13 or  
14 (ii) state of Indiana general educational development (GED)  
15 diploma under IC 20-10.1-12.1 (before its repeal),

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- 1 IC 20-20-6 (before its repeal), or IC 22-4.1-18; or  
 2 (C) is a student in good standing at an approved secondary  
 3 school and is engaged in a program that in due course will be  
 4 completed by the end of the current academic year.
- 5 (3) The financial resources reasonably available to the applicant,  
 6 as defined by the commission, are such that, in the absence of a  
 7 higher education award under this chapter, the applicant would be  
 8 deterred from completing the applicant's education at the  
 9 approved postsecondary educational institution that the applicant  
 10 has selected and that has accepted the applicant. In determining  
 11 the financial resources reasonably available to an applicant to  
 12 whom IC 21-18.5-4-8 applies, the commission must consider the  
 13 financial resources of the applicant's legal parent.
- 14 (4) The applicant will use the award initially at that approved  
 15 postsecondary educational institution.
- 16 (5) If the student is already enrolled in an approved postsecondary  
 17 educational institution, the applicant must be a full-time student  
 18 and be making satisfactory progress, as determined by the  
 19 commission, toward a first baccalaureate degree.
- 20 (6) The student declares, in writing, a specific educational  
 21 objective or course of study and enrolls in:
- 22 (A) courses that apply toward the requirements for completion  
 23 of that objective or course of study; or
- 24 (B) courses designed to help the student develop the basic  
 25 skills that the student needs to successfully achieve that  
 26 objective or continue in that course of study.
- 27 (7) The student is not eligible to receive a twenty-first century  
 28 scholarship under IC 21-12-6.
- 29 **(8) The student has not been granted an accelerate your  
 30 success award under IC 21-12-15 during the same academic  
 31 year.**
- 32 (b) This subsection applies to an individual who:
- 33 (1) meets the requirements set forth in subsection (a); and
- 34 (2) before the date that eligibility is determined by the  
 35 commission, has been placed by or with the consent of the  
 36 department of child services, by a court order, or by a licensed  
 37 child placing agency in:
- 38 (A) a foster family home;
- 39 (B) the home of a relative or other unlicensed caretaker;
- 40 (C) a child caring institution; or
- 41 (D) a group home.
- 42 The commission shall consider an individual to whom this subsection



1 applies as a full-need student under the commission's rules when  
 2 determining the eligibility of the individual to receive financial aid  
 3 administered by the commission under this chapter.

4 SECTION 2. IC 21-12-15 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
 5 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 6 JULY 1, 2015]:

7 **Chapter 15. Accelerate Your Success Award**

8 **Sec. 1. (a) For purposes of this chapter, an eligible program is**  
 9 **a program that:**

- 10 (1) allows a student to graduate at least one (1) year ahead of  
 11 the published program length;  
 12 (2) achieves on time graduation rates of seventy percent  
 13 (70%) or higher;  
 14 (3) serves low income and first generation students; and  
 15 (4) charges tuition and fees at a rate that allows a student to  
 16 pay not less than ten percent (10%) of the tuition and fees  
 17 over the duration of the program compared to the amount the  
 18 student would pay under the published program length.

19 **Sec. 2. (a) The accelerate your success award fund is established**  
 20 **to make awards authorized under this chapter to eligible**  
 21 **applicants enrolled in eligible programs.**

22 **(b) The fund consists of the following:**

- 23 (1) Appropriations made by the general assembly.  
 24 (2) Gifts, grants, devises, or bequests made to the state to  
 25 achieve the purposes of the fund.

26 **(c) The fund shall be administered by the commission.**

27 **(d) The fund must be separate and distinct from other funds**  
 28 **administered by the commission, and money in the fund may not**  
 29 **be exchanged with or transferred to other funds.**

30 **(e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not**  
 31 **currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same**  
 32 **manner as other public funds are invested.**

33 **(f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not**  
 34 **revert to the state general fund but remains available for providing**  
 35 **money for accelerate your success awards under this chapter.**

36 **Sec. 3. The commission shall prescribe the form and manner in**  
 37 **which applications for the accelerate your success award must be**  
 38 **submitted.**

39 **Sec. 4. A student is eligible to receive an accelerate your success**  
 40 **award under this chapter if the student:**

- 41 (1) is an Indiana resident;  
 42 (2) is enrolled in an eligible program;



1 (3) demonstrates financial need, as defined by the  
2 commission; and

3 (4) meets any other criteria established by the commission.

4 Sec. 5. Subject to the amount appropriated, the amount of the  
5 accelerate your success award under this chapter is equal to the  
6 lesser of:

7 (1) the tuition and fees charged by the eligible institution for  
8 the eligible program; or

9 (2) one hundred eighty percent (180%) of the amount the  
10 student is entitled to receive under IC 21-12-1.7-3.

11 Sec. 6. A recipient may receive an accelerate your success award  
12 under this chapter for:

13 (1) three (3) years, if the recipient is pursuing a baccalaureate  
14 degree; or

15 (2) one and one-half (1.5) years, if the recipient is pursuing an  
16 associate degree or certificate.

17 Sec. 7. For each term that a recipient receives an accelerate your  
18 success award under this chapter, the recipient's eligibility for  
19 other financial aid under this article is reduced by one (1) term.

20 SECTION 3. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015] (a) There is  
21 appropriated from the state general fund to the commission for  
22 higher education one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2015-2016  
23 state fiscal year and one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the  
24 2016-2017 state fiscal year for providing grants to state educational  
25 institutions, as defined in IC 21-7-13-32, under this SECTION.

26 (b) The grants under subsection (a) may be used only for  
27 establishing degree programs that award a baccalaureate degree  
28 within thirty-six (36) months of first enrolling in higher education  
29 for students described in IC 21-12-15-4. A program may not reduce  
30 the number of credit hours required for the baccalaureate degree.

31 (c) A state educational institution must apply for a grant under  
32 this section as required by the commission. A state educational  
33 institution must commit in its application that it will use the grant  
34 only to cover expenses directly related to establishing the proposed  
35 program. To receive the grant, the commission must approve the  
36 proposed program and expenditures.

37 (d) The commission for higher education may use the 2015-2016  
38 state fiscal year appropriation only for grants for programs that  
39 are implemented before May 1, 2016, and the 2016-2017 state fiscal  
40 year appropriation only for grants for programs that are  
41 implemented after April 30, 2016, and before May 1, 2017.

42 (e) This SECTION expires June 30, 2017.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Education, to which was referred House Bill 1231, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1231 as introduced.)

BEHNING

Committee Vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0

