

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**House Bill 4919**

BY DELEGATES RILEY, HORST, DITTMAN, HORNBUCKLE,  
HOTT, MAZZOCCHI, TONEY, MAYNOR, GRIFFITH, LINVILLE,  
AND WESTFALL

[Passed March 7, 2024; in effect ninety days from  
passage.]

**FILED**

2024 MAR 26 P 2:31

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

HB 4919



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1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §18C-7-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to requiring the reinstatement of a Promise Scholarship Award upon meeting certain  
3 criteria; and deleting obsolete language.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 7. WEST VIRGINIA PROVIDING REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAXIMIZING  
IN-STATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

**§18C-7-6. PROMISE Scholarship Program requirements; legislative rule.**

1 (a) A PROMISE scholarship annual award shall meet the following conditions:

2 (1) For a student enrolled in a state institution of higher education, the annual award is  
3 equal to the lesser of the cost of tuition or \$4,750, except that a student who was awarded and  
4 used a PROMISE scholarship annual award prior to January 1, 2010, shall continue to receive  
5 the annual award calculated under the same terms and conditions that applied on the day before  
6 the effective date of this article;

7 (2) For a student enrolled in an eligible institution other than a state institution of higher  
8 education, the annual award is equal to, but may not exceed, the lesser of the cost of tuition or  
9 \$4,750, except that a student who was awarded and used a PROMISE scholarship annual award  
10 prior to January 1, 2010, shall continue to receive the annual award calculated under the same  
11 terms and conditions that applied on the day before the effective date of this article;

12 (3) The annual award may exceed \$4,750, if the commission determines that adequate  
13 funds are available, but in any case may not be greater than the actual cost of tuition;

14 (4) The annual award shall be used by an eligible institution to supplement, but may not  
15 supplant, a tuition and fee waiver for which the individual is eligible pursuant to §18B-10-5, §18B-  
16 10-6a, §18B-10-7, or §18B-10-7b of this code.

17 (b) The total cost of all scholarships awarded by the commission in any year may not  
18 exceed the amount of funds available to the commission during that fiscal year.

19 (c) In order to be eligible to receive a PROMISE scholarship award, an individual shall:

20 (1) Submit a scholarship award application to the commission:

21 (A) Within two years of completing a secondary education program in a public, private, or  
22 home school or within two years of obtaining a GED or equivalent; or

23 (B) Within seven years of initially entering military service, and within one year of discharge  
24 from military service, if the individual has entered the United States armed services within two  
25 years after completing a secondary education program in a public, private, or home school or  
26 obtaining a GED or equivalent;

27 (2) Apply for and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid;

28 (3) Maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale in the required  
29 core and elective course work necessary to prepare students for success in post-secondary  
30 education at the associate and baccalaureate degree levels as determined by the commission, if  
31 the individual has completed not more than one semester or term at an institution of higher  
32 education, excluding credits earned in advanced placement, international baccalaureate, dual  
33 credit, and comparable courses while the student is enrolled in high school;

34 (4) Maintain appropriate academic progress toward the completion of a degree at the  
35 undergraduate education level as determined by the commission if the individual has completed  
36 more than one semester or term at an institution of higher education, excluding credits earned in  
37 advanced placement, international baccalaureate, dual credit and comparable courses while the  
38 student is enrolled in high school; school: *Provided*, That a recipient of the PROMISE scholarship  
39 award who does not meet the requirements of this subdivision and loses the award may petition  
40 the institution to reinstate the award upon successfully reattaining the credit hour and minimum  
41 overall grade point qualifications set out in the commission's rule governing eligibility for receipt  
42 of the PROMISE scholarship: *Provided, however*, That a student who has lost the PROMISE  
43 scholarship award is only eligible to be reinstated one time; if the student becomes ineligible for  
44 the PROMISE scholarship award a second time, the student may not again petition the institution

45 for reinstatement of the award nor again be reinstated: *Provided further*, That the student forfeits  
46 a term of eligibility for each term in which the student is enrolled to meet the renewal requirements  
47 as authorized by this subdivision: *And provided further*, That upon a finding that the student  
48 successfully reattained the credit hour and minimum overall grade point qualifications set out in  
49 the commission's rule governing eligibility for receipt of the PROMISE scholarship award as  
50 required by this subdivision, the institution shall reinstate the award;

51 (5) Be a United States citizen or legal immigrant to the United States;

52 (6) Meet additional objective standards the commission considers necessary to promote  
53 academic excellence and to maintain the financial stability of the fund; and

54 (7) Enroll in an eligible institution. A student enrolled at an eligible institution who receives  
55 a PROMISE scholarship award may retain and renew the scholarship to complete his or her  
56 undergraduate education at that institution or any other eligible institution under the following  
57 circumstances:

58 (A) The institution at which the student is enrolled loses its status as an eligible institution  
59 pursuant to the provisions of §18B-7-3(b)(1) of this code; and

60 (B) The student meets all other renewal requirements of this code and of commission  
61 rules.

62 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the commission shall strongly encourage  
63 prospective candidates for the PROMISE scholarship to perform at least 20 hours of unpaid  
64 community service while in high school to help prepare them for success in post-secondary  
65 education. The community service may include, but is not limited to, participation with nonprofit,  
66 governmental or community-based organizations designed with any or all of the following  
67 purposes:

68 (1) Improving the quality of life for community residents;

69 (2) Meeting the needs of community residents; or

70 (3) Fostering civic responsibility.

71 (e) The commission shall promulgate a legislative rule in accordance with the provisions  
72 of §29A-3A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

73 (1) The rule shall include at least the following provisions:

74 (A) The amount of a PROMISE scholarship award in combination with aid from all other  
75 sources may not exceed the cost of education at the institution the recipient is attending. This  
76 provision does not apply to members of the West Virginia National Guard, recipients of an  
77 Underwood-Smith teacher scholarship and recipients of a West Virginia engineering, science and  
78 technology scholarship;

79 (B) Additional objective standards the commission considers necessary:

80 (i) To promote academic excellence;

81 (ii) To maintain the financial stability of the fund; and

82 (iii) To operate the program within the limits of available funds;

83 (C) Provisions for making the highest and best use of the PROMISE Scholarship Program  
84 in conjunction with the West Virginia College Prepaid Tuition and Savings Program Act set forth  
85 in §18-30-1 *et seq.* of this code;

86 (D) A provision defining the relationship of PROMISE scholarship awards to all other  
87 sources of student financial aid to ensure maximum coordination. The provision shall include the  
88 following:

89 (i) Methods to maximize student eligibility for federal student financial aid;

90 (ii) A requirement that PROMISE scholarship awards not supplant tuition and fee waivers;

91 and

92 (iii) Clarification of the relationship between the PROMISE Scholarship Program, tuition  
93 savings plans and other state-funded student financial aid programs;

94 (E) A method for awarding scholarships within the limits of available appropriations,  
95 including circumstances when program funds are not sufficient to provide awards to all eligible  
96 applicants. The commission may not use any of the following methods:



97 (i) Providing for an annual PROMISE scholarship award that is less than the amounts  
98 provided for in this section; or

99 (ii) Eliminating any current recipient from eligibility; and

100 (F) A method for applicants to appeal determinations of eligibility and renewal.

101 (2) The rule may provide for or require the following at the commission's discretion:

102 (A) Requiring repayment of the amount of the scholarship, in whole or in part, if a  
103 scholarship recipient chooses to work outside the state after graduation. The rule may not require  
104 a recipient to repay a scholarship, in whole or in part, unless the prospective recipient has been  
105 informed of this requirement in writing before initial acceptance of the PROMISE scholarship  
106 award;

107 (B) Targeting a portion of the scholarship funds to be used for applicants enrolled in an  
108 engineering, science, technology or other designated program;

109 (C) Determining what other sources of funding for higher education are to be deducted  
110 from the PROMISE scholarship award; and

111 (D) Providing additional criteria as determined by the commission.

112 (3) Any rule promulgated by the commission pursuant to previous enactments of this  
113 article in effect on the effective date of the amendment and reenactment of this article in the year  
114 2009 remains in effect until amended, modified, repealed, or replaced by the commission.



The Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

  
.....  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

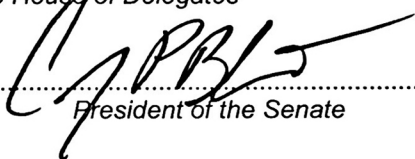
  
.....  
Clerk of the Senate

Originated in the House of Delegates.

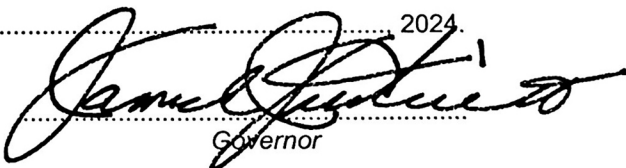
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FILED  
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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

  
.....  
Speaker of the House of Delegates

  
.....  
President of the Senate

The within is approved this the 26th  
Day of March ..... 2024.

  
.....  
Governor



PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 21 2024

Time 10:42am