

SCASFAA CONFERENCE

Spring 2014



SC Commission on Higher Education

Student Financial Support & Residency

Agenda

- Legislative Updates
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- Transcript Information
- Student Financial Support Information

Federal Legislative Updates

Titles: H.R.357 — 113th Congress (2013-2014)

GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2014

“(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and subject to paragraphs (3) through (6), the Secretary shall disapprove a course of education provided by a public institution of higher education to a covered individual pursuing a course of education with educational assistance under chapter 30 or 33 of this title while living in the State in which the public institution of higher education is located if the institution charges tuition and fees for that course for the covered individual at a rate that is higher than the rate the institution charges for tuition and fees for that course for residents of the State in which the institution is located, regardless of the covered individual's State of residence.

Status: 2/14/2014 - Passed House. Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Federal Legislative Updates

Titles: H.R.357 — 113th Congress (2013-2014)

GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2014 – Section dealing with residency

“(4) It shall not be grounds to disapprove a course of education under paragraph (1) if a public institution of higher education requires a covered individual pursuing a course of education at the institution to demonstrate an intent, by means other than satisfying a physical presence requirement, to establish residency in the State in which the institution is located, or to satisfy other requirements not relating to the establishment of residency, in order to be charged tuition and fees for that course at a rate that is equal to or less than the rate the institution charges for tuition and fees for that course for residents of the State.

South Carolina Legislative Updates

S 0093 General Bill, By Young

Summary: Tuition rates

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 59-112-20 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO RATES OF TUITION AND FEES TO BE PAID BY STUDENTS ENTERING OR ATTENDING STATE INSTITUTIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR IN-STATE TUITION RATES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS FUNDING THEIR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OR TRAINING WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS GI BILL.

Status: *Referred to Senate Education Committee 3/18/14*

H 3086 General Bill, By Daning, J.E. Smith, Crosby, R. L. Brown, M.S. McLeod, Taylor, J.R. Smith, Wells, Hixon, Rovers and Gilliard

Summary: Tuition rates for military personnel and dependents

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 59-112-50, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, SO AS TO REVISE THE CRITERIA UNDER WHICH VETERANS WHO ARE HONORABLY DISCHARGED AND THEIR DEPENDENTS MAY RECEIVE IN-STATE TUITION RATES.

Status: *Passed the House, sent to the Senate and referred to Senate Education Committee 3/18/14.*



About Us

What We Do

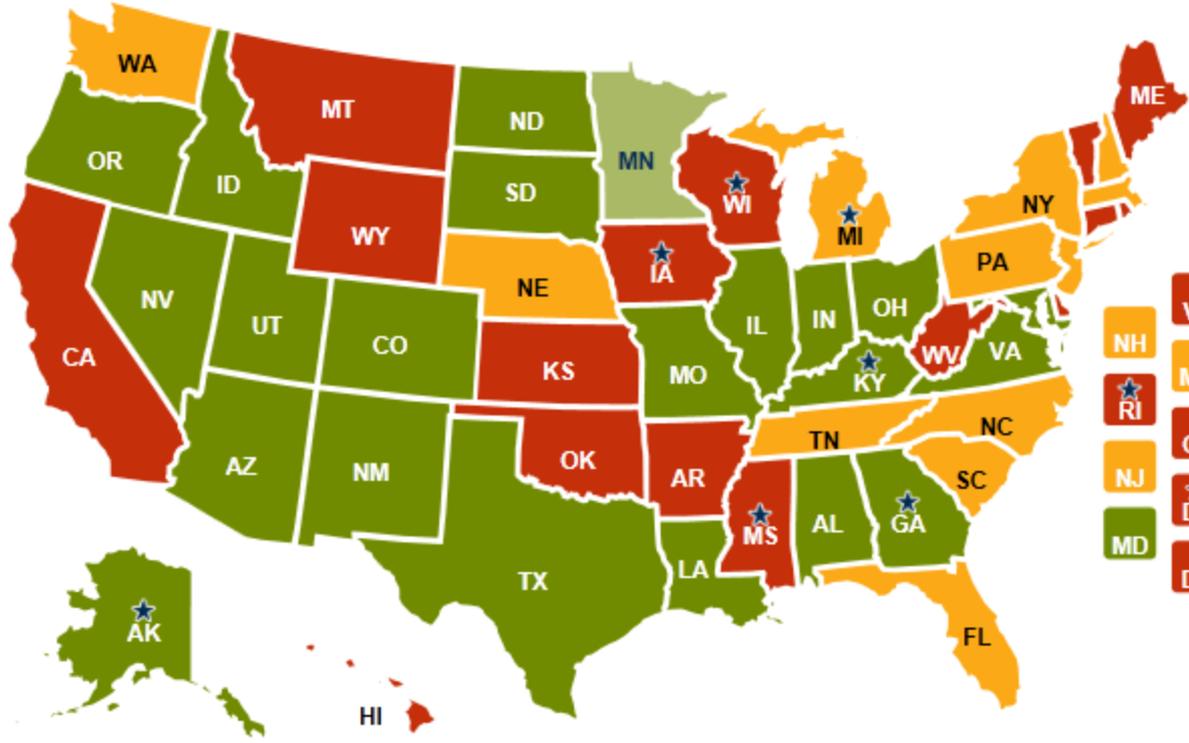
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The Fight for In-State Tuition for Veterans



- In-state tuition
- Pending legislation
- No legislation
- ★ Special cases

- VT
- NH
- ★ RI
- MA
- CT
- NJ
- ★ DE
- MD
- DC

20 States have state laws providing student veterans an in-state residency waiver.

8 States have a school or school systems that provide student veterans an in-state residency waiver.

12 states have legislation pending.

Click the state for more information.

Green and Yellow State Summary

- Thirteen (13) states require the Veteran to show intent to be a resident at some point in the process (Green)
- Nine (9) States do not require Veterans to Show intent to be residents (Green)
- Eight (8) States have pending legislation that requires the Veteran to show intent to be a resident at some point in the process (Yellow - pending)
- Four (4) states have pending legislation that does not require the Veteran to show intent to be a resident at some point in the process (Yellow – pending)

South Carolina Legislative Updates

S 259 By Thurmond, **Summary: Tuition For Persons Over 60.**

TO AMEND SECTION 59-111-320 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO PERSONS AGE SIXTY AND OVER ATTENDING CLASSES AT STATE-SUPPORTED COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS WITHOUT PAYMENT OF TUITION, TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT THESE PERSONS RECEIVING COMPENSATION AS FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES MUST PAY TUITION

Status: *Passed the Senate, sent to the House, and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee where it remains for consideration in 2014.*

Year-Round Scholarship Taskforce

The President/Chancellor from the college/university provided CHE a delegate to represent their institution in respect to examining and possible implementation of year-round scholarship disbursements.

- The Taskforce held 4 meetings:
 - 1st meeting: February 2013– Laid the foundation for year-round scholarships and the feasibility of year-round scholarships.
 - 2nd meeting: May 2013– Discussed how to move forward with year-round scholarships. Identified/addressed potential issues with respect to implementation and awarding processes.
 - 3rd meeting: January 2014 (teleconference)– Reviewed the pilot program from summer 2013. Identified key points in order to be able to move forward with an effective implementation plan for year-round scholarships.
 - 4th meeting: March 2014 (public meeting open to all institutions and institutional staff/administration)– narrowed down the key points to be resolved as well as prepared for probable implementation in the coming months. Reviewed institutions' plans for being able to provide a full summer semester.

Year-Round Scholarship Taskforce Issues Under Review

- Transfer/Tracking Information
 - Being able to have access to the number of terms a scholarship recipient has used
 - Primarily, the use of a summer term by a scholarship recipient
- Award Disbursement
 - When a summer award disbursement would take place
 - Determining a student's full time status over the course of multiple summer "semesters"
- Financial Literacy
 - Providing ample information to students who participate in summer and utilize their scholarship disbursement

Governor's Report submitted 11/27/13. Available here:
http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/infocntr/legisl/2014/2013-11-27_CHE_ScholarshipYear-RoundEligibility_Rpt%20incl6a6b.pdf

Year-round Scholarships

- 11.19. (CHE: Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarships) A student may receive a Palmetto Fellows or LIFE scholarship award during the summer, in addition to fall and spring semesters of an academic year, provided continued eligibility requirements are met as of the end of the spring semester. Students must enroll full-time, which for purposes of the summer award will require enrollment in at least twelve hours over the course of the summer. The summer is defined as the period between the end of the spring term and prior to the opening of the fall term. The total summer award per student may not exceed half of the allowable academic year award up to the cost of attendance and must be reimbursed if less than twelve hours for academic credit are not completed by the student during summer sessions. If awarded in the summer, a student's total award during his or her enrollment may not exceed the amount that would otherwise be provided under current semester limits applied for the scholarship awards. The Commission on Higher Education may provide additional guidelines necessary to ensure uniform implementation.

**as passed by the House of Representatives March 12, 2014*

Foster Care Youth (FCY)

- Updated FCY waiver available here:
- http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/student services/needbased/files/FCY-Waiver-Form-2014.pdf
- The process is still the same, however, the updated form and additional documentation correspond with the established Regulations.

- **All invoices for FCY are to be sent to:**

SC Commission on Higher Education

Attn: Student Financial Support

1122 Lady Street, Suite 300

Columbia, SC 29201

**please include student ID# listed on the FCY waiver on the invoice*

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship 2014 Early Award

- 2,021 Palmetto Fellows Scholarships were awarded for the Early Award period
- Notifications were sent to via email to recipients **March 3rd**
 - Late Award period will open April 15th and close June 15th
 - Notifications for Late Awards will begin in August
- Designation Form
 - CHE must have the required form on file in order to provide scholarship funds to an institution
 - Still need ****1453 **** Designation Forms
 - Deadline is: **AUGUST 31, 2014**

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS) Process

- Students **must** be a part of either the Early or Late Award application period
 - This is the sole responsibility of the high school/home school association
- Only CHE can determine someone to be a PFS recipient
 - Notification of a student's PFS status is provided by CHE only, and is made directly to the student
- Once a student has been determined to be a PFS recipient their status is reflected on the NG website
 - If they are **NOT** on the NG website a PFS award **cannot** be provided

High School Transcripts: GPA

- All State scholarship programs use the SC UGP GPA for determination of eligibility. In order to use a transcript for scholarship eligibility purposes:

**ALL transcripts must demonstrate a
SC UGP GPA on the transcript**

- Any transcript that states, “Weighted and Unweighted GPA” OR “Total GPA” will not be accepted for the purposes of awarding state scholarships as it must comply with the SC UGP.
 - LIFE Scholarship: 62-1200.10
 - Palmetto Fellows Scholarship: 62-320
- For the purposes of awarding State scholarships, should it be determined that an high school’s grading scale deviates from the SC UGP, the institutions shall contact CHE to determine the student’s SC HOPE/LIFE Scholarship eligibility.

High School Transcripts: Date & Rank Reports

- On all final transcripts the “date calculated” must be between the date of the high school graduation (May-June) and no later than June 15th.
- For LIFE Scholarship eligibility, rank is based on the SC UGP which is calculated at the end of the 12th grade spring semester only (no later than June 15th)
- Any rank report submitted (if applicable) needs to be dated in accordance with the June 15th date.

Electronic Transcripts

- CHE is currently working with the SC Department of Education (SC DE) to address transcript issues for scholarship eligibility for those transcripts submitted electronically
- SC DE held a meeting to review the submitted transcript issues
- Should it be determined that transcripts submitted electronically are eligible to be used for scholarship purposes, institutions will be notified. At that time, institutions will be able to move forward and award State scholarships to those students who submitted electronic transcripts

Student Financial Support: Additional Information

- CHE will be conducting regional workshops this Summer for Scholarship/Grant and SC residency training.
- Institutions willing to host a workshop, please email Elizabeth Caulder at: ecaulder@che.sc.gov.

Student Financial Support: Additional Information

- The 2014 Appeals Cycle will begin on May 5, 2014, and new applications will be accepted through 5:00pm on September 26, 2014
- Students are encouraged to review the Guidelines for Appeal on the CHE website after May 5th to determine if their circumstance truly meets the definition of an extraordinary circumstance or a traumatic event
- It is strongly encouraged that institutions notify students of their eligibility status and their ability to attend summer school
- Appeals Application/Information link:
 - <http://www.che.sc.gov/Students,FamiliesMilitary/Appeals.aspx>

Regulatory Review

- CHE is currently assessing and revising regulations for:
 - Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
 - LIFE Scholarship
 - SC HOPE Scholarship
 - LTAP
 - SC Need-based Grant
 - National Guard
 - Residency
- Currently in the internal stages. Once all necessary internal steps have been completed, the information will be provided to institutions for review and suggestions.



Questions

Student Financial Support Contact Information

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Elizabeth Caulder, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship & LTAP

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**Stephanie Charbonneau, LIFE and SC HOPE Scholarships &
SC Need-based Grant**

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