

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 711

Short Title: Eligibility Changes for Opp Scholarships. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hise (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

May 7, 2020

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE OPPORTUNITY
3 SCHOLARSHIP GRANT FUND PROGRAM TO ALLOW ANY STUDENT ELIGIBLE
4 TO ATTEND A NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOL TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A
5 SCHOLARSHIP GRANT AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE EXPANSION OF
6 THE PROGRAM.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-562.1(3)a. reads as rewritten:

9 "a. ~~Meets one of the following criteria:~~ Is eligible to attend a North
10 Carolina public school pursuant to G.S. 115C-366.

- 11 1. ~~Was a full time student (i) assigned to and attending a public~~
12 ~~school pursuant to G.S. 115C-366 or (ii) enrolled in a~~
13 ~~Department of Defense Elementary and Secondary School,~~
14 ~~established pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2164 and located in North~~
15 ~~Carolina, during the spring semester prior to the school year~~
16 ~~for which the student is applying.~~
17 2. ~~Received a scholarship grant for the school year prior to the~~
18 ~~school year for which the student is applying.~~
19 3. ~~Is entering either kindergarten or the first grade.~~
20 4. ~~Is a child in foster care as defined in G.S. 131D-10.2(9).~~
21 5. ~~Is a child whose adoption decree was entered not more than~~
22 ~~one year prior to submission of the scholarship grant~~
23 ~~application.~~
24 6. ~~Is a child whose parent or legal guardian is on full-time duty~~
25 ~~status in the active uniformed service of the United States,~~
26 ~~including members of the National Guard and Reserve on~~
27 ~~active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 12301, et seq., and~~
28 ~~10 U.S.C. § 12401, et seq."~~

29 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-562.2(a)(2)b. is repealed.

30 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-562.8(b) reads as rewritten:

31 "(b) The General Assembly finds that, due to the critical need in this State to provide
32 opportunity for school choice for North Carolina students, it is imperative that the State provide
33 an increase of funds of at least ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) each fiscal year for 10 years to
34 the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve. Therefore, there is appropriated from the
35 General Fund to the Reserve the following amounts for each fiscal year to be used for the
36 purposes set forth in this section:



	Fiscal Year	Appropriation
1		
2	2017-2018	\$44,840,000
3	2018-2019	\$54,840,000
4	2019-2020	\$64,840,000
5	2020-2021	\$74,840,000 \$76,840,000
6	2021-2022	\$84,840,000 \$86,840,000
7	2022-2023	\$94,840,000 \$96,840,000
8	2023-2024	\$104,840,000 \$106,840,000
9	2024-2025	\$114,840,000 \$116,840,000
10	2025-2026	\$124,840,000 \$126,840,000
11	2026-2027	\$134,840,000 \$136,840,000

12 For the 2027-2028 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, there is appropriated from the
 13 General Fund to the Reserve the sum of one hundred ~~forty-four~~ forty-six million eight hundred
 14 forty thousand dollars (~~\$144,840,000~~) (\$146,840,000) to be used for the purposes set forth in this
 15 section. When developing the base budget, as defined by G.S. 143C-1-1, for each fiscal year
 16 specified in this subsection, the Director of the Budget shall include the appropriated amount
 17 specified in this subsection for that fiscal year."

18 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
 19 the award of scholarship grants for the 2021-2022 school year.