

2024 -- S 2559 AS AMENDED

LC004703

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE COLLEGE CRUSADE SCHOLARSHIP

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Valverde, Lawson, Lauria, Pearson, DiPalma, Bissailon,
Acosta, Murray, and Kallman

Date Introduced: March 01, 2024

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 16-70 of the General Laws entitled "The College Crusade
2 Scholarship [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — the Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby
3 amended to read as follows:

4 ~~CHAPTER 16-70~~

5 ~~The College Crusade Scholarship [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — the Rhode Island Board of~~
6 ~~Education Act]~~

7 CHAPTER 16-70

8 THE ONWARD WE LEARN SCHOLARSHIP ACT

9 SECTION 2. Sections 16-70-1, 16-70-3, 16-70-4, 16-70-5 and 16-70-6 of the General
10 Laws in Chapter 16-70 entitled "The College Crusade Scholarship [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — the
11 Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" are hereby amended to read as follows:

12 **16-70-1. Short title.**

13 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as ~~the "College Crusade Scholarship Act."~~
14 "The Onward We Learn Scholarship Act".

15 **16-70-3. ~~Program for the support of the college crusade established.~~ Program for the**
16 **support of the onward we learn scholarship established.**

17 The council on postsecondary education is empowered to establish and provide as part of
18 the operation of the office of the postsecondary commissioner methods and procedures for the
19 state's support of the ~~college crusade~~ onward we learn scholarship and provide financial and

1 technical assistance as needed.

2 **16-70-4. Council on postsecondary education support program — Powers and duties.**

3 The council on postsecondary education shall have the following powers and duties:

4 (1) To prepare with the assistance of the commissioner of postsecondary education and to
5 present annually to the state budget officer in accordance with § 35-3-4, as part of the state higher
6 education budget, a line-item budget request specifically designated as the state’s share of support
7 for ~~the college crusade of Rhode Island~~ [onward we learn](#). The budget shall be designated as a
8 specific, line-item budget request and shall be presented as part of the budget of the postsecondary
9 commissioner.

10 (2) To provide, through its office of the postsecondary commissioner, the authority to
11 designate ~~the college crusade of Rhode Island~~ [onward we learn](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
12 registered with the Rhode Island secretary of state, as the entity that will administer and operate all
13 program services and manage scholarship resources [associated with the federal GEAR UP program](#).

14 **16-70-5. Budget and appropriations.**

15 The general assembly shall annually appropriate any sums as it deems necessary as the
16 state’s share for the support and maintenance of ~~the college crusade~~ [onward we learn](#), including
17 operational and scholarship support, and the state controller is authorized and directed to draw his
18 or her orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of the appropriations upon receipt by him
19 or her of the proper voucher the office of the postsecondary commissioner may provide. The office
20 of the postsecondary commissioner shall present the voucher to the state controller no later than
21 the last day of the first month of the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made and this
22 appropriation shall be remitted to the accounts of ~~the college crusade of Rhode Island~~ [onward we](#)
23 [learn](#) by the state treasurer no later than the last day of the second month of the fiscal year.

24 **16-70-6. Audit requirements.**

25 ~~The college crusade of Rhode Island~~ [Onward we learn](#) shall complete an annual audit
26 completed by prior to the employment of private auditors. Audit work papers of the private auditors
27 shall be made available upon request to the auditor general and/or the director of administration for
28 their review, at the completion of the audit. The audit report shall be furnished to the auditor general
29 and the director of administration.

30 SECTION 3. Chapter 16-70 of the General Laws entitled “The College Crusade
31 Scholarship [See Title 16 Chapter 97 – the Rhode Island Board of Education Act]” is hereby
32 amended by adding thereto the following section:

33 **16-70-4.1 Access to student information systems.**

34 [To ensure that program participants in the onward we learn scholarship program receive](#)

1 [the best possible services and supports, local education agencies \(LEAs\) whose students participate](#)
2 [in this program shall provide the organization with individual-level access to student information](#)
3 [systems and other data related to established college readiness metrics including, but not limited](#)
4 [to: attendance, course schedule demographics, discipline, grades, and test results.](#)

5 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE COLLEGE CRUSADE SCHOLARSHIP

1 This act would change the name of The College Crusade Scholarship to the Onward We
2 Learn Scholarship and provide that those scholarships would not be considered federal or financial
3 aid with regard to the Promise Scholarship or Hope Scholarship Pilot Program. The act would also
4 require that Local Education Agencies provide the program with individual-level access to student
5 information systems and other data related to established college readiness metrics.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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