

2022 -- H 7635

LC005058

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - RHODE ISLAND PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, C Lima, Williams, Noret, Azzinaro,
and O'Brien

Date Introduced: March 02, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-107-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-107 entitled "Rhode
2 Island Promise Scholarship" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-107-6. Eligibility for scholarship.**

4 (a) Beginning with the students who enroll at the community college of Rhode Island in
5 the fall of 2017, to be considered for the scholarship, a student:

6 (1) Must qualify for in-state tuition and fees pursuant to the residency policy adopted by
7 the council on postsecondary education, as amended, supplemented, restated, or otherwise
8 modified from time to time ("residency policy"); provided, that, the student must have satisfied the
9 high school graduation/equivalency diploma condition prior to reaching nineteen (19) years of age;
10 provided, further, that in addition to the option of meeting the requirement by receiving a high
11 school equivalency diploma as described in the residency policy, the student can satisfy the
12 condition by receiving other certificates or documents of equivalent nature from the state or its
13 municipalities as recognized by applicable regulations promulgated by the council on elementary
14 and secondary education;

15 (2) Must be admitted to, and must enroll and attend the community college of Rhode Island
16 on a full-time basis by the semester immediately following high school graduation or the semester
17 immediately following receipt of a high school equivalency diploma;

18 (3) Must complete the FAFSA and any required FAFSA verification, or for persons who
19 are legally unable to complete the FAFSA must complete a comparable form created by the

1 community college of Rhode Island, by the deadline prescribed by the community college of Rhode
2 Island for each year in which the student seeks to receive funding under the scholarship program;

3 (4) Must continue to be enrolled on a full-time basis;

4 (5) Must maintain an average annual cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or
5 greater, as determined by the community college of Rhode Island;

6 (6) Must remain on track to graduate on time as determined by the community college of
7 Rhode Island;

8 (7) Must not have already received an award under this scholarship program; and

9 (8) Must commit to live, work, or continue their education in Rhode Island after graduation.

10 The community college of Rhode Island shall develop a policy that will secure this
11 commitment from recipient students.

12 (b) Notwithstanding the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) of this section
13 ("specified conditions"):

14 (1) In the case of a recipient student who has an approved medical or personal leave of
15 absence or is unable to satisfy one or more specified conditions because of the student's medical or
16 personal circumstances, the student may continue to receive an award under the scholarship
17 program upon resuming the student's education so long as the student continues to meet all other
18 applicable eligibility requirements;

19 (2) In the case of a recipient student who is a member of the national guard or a member
20 of a reserve unit of a branch of the United States military and is unable to satisfy one or more
21 specified conditions because the student is or will be in basic or special military training, or is or
22 will be participating in a deployment of the student's guard or reserve unit, the student may continue
23 to receive an award under the scholarship program upon completion of the student's basic or special
24 military training or deployment; ~~and~~

25 (3) Any student with a disability, otherwise eligible for a scholarship pursuant to the
26 provisions of this section, as of May 15, 2021, shall be entitled to access this program and shall be
27 afforded all reasonable accommodations, as required by the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act of
28 1973, including, but not limited to, enrolling on a part-time basis, attaining a high school
29 diploma/GED by age twenty-one (21), and taking longer than two (2) years to graduate with an
30 associate's degree; ~~and~~ and

31 (4) On and after July 1, 2022, a student who enrolls for the first semester at the community
32 college of Rhode Island after the student completes basic training prior to becoming a military
33 reservist, who is otherwise eligible for a promise scholarship pursuant to the provisions of this
34 section, shall also be entitled to access this program and be eligible for the scholarship.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION - RHODE ISLAND PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

1 This act would provide that on and after July 1, 2022, a student who enrolls at CCRI for
2 the first semester after the student completes basic training prior to becoming a military reservist,
3 who is otherwise eligible for a promise scholarship, would also be entitled to access this program
4 and be eligible for the scholarship.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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