

2024 -- S 2852

LC005728

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RHODE ISLAND HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PILOT
PROGRAM ACT

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Gallo, Cano, Bissaillon, DiPalma, Zurier, and Murray

Date Introduced: March 22, 2024

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-113-7 and 16-113-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-113
2 entitled "Rhode Island Hope Scholarship Pilot Program Act" are hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **16-113-7. Reporting and disbursement.**

5 (a) On or before November 10, 2023, and on or before November 10 thereafter for every
6 year through and including calendar year ~~2028~~ 2030, Rhode Island college shall submit a report to
7 the director of the office of management and budget, the state budget officer, the house fiscal
8 advisor, the senate fiscal advisor, the commissioner of postsecondary education, and the chair of
9 the council on postsecondary education, detailing the following:

- 10 (1) The number of students eligible to participate in the scholarship program;
- 11 (2) The amount of federal and institutional financial aid anticipated to be received by
12 recipient students;
- 13 (3) The aggregate tuition and mandatory fee costs attributable to recipient students;
- 14 (4) The resulting total cost of the scholarship program to the state; and
- 15 (5) The report shall contain such data for both the current fiscal year and the most up-to-
16 date forecast for the following fiscal year. Data reported shall be subdivided by student-year cohort
17 and shall be accompanied by a written explanation detailing the estimating methodology utilized
18 and any impact(s) the forecasted data may present to institutional capacity, operational costs, and

1 the tuition/fee revenue base of the institution.

2 (b) On or before July 1, 2024, and on or before July 1 thereafter for every year through and
3 including calendar year ~~2028~~ 2030, Rhode Island college, in conjunction with the office of the
4 postsecondary commissioner, shall submit a report evaluating the program to the governor, speaker
5 of the house, and the president of the senate. This evaluation shall include the following:

6 (1) The number of students who started in each cohort;

7 (2) The number of students in each cohort who have attained a degree or certification in an
8 on-time manner;

9 (3) The number of students in each cohort who have not attained a degree or certification
10 in an on-time manner and an analysis of why that has happened;

11 (4) The number of students in each cohort who began the program but have been unable to
12 continue or complete the program and an analysis of why that has happened;

13 (5) The costs of the program and the costs of continuing the program;

14 (6) Suggestions for ways to increase the success of the program;

15 (7) Recommendations as to modifying, continuing, expanding, curtailing, or discontinuing
16 the program; and

17 (8) Any such other recommendations or information as Rhode Island college and the
18 commissioner of postsecondary education deem appropriate to include in the evaluation.

19 (c) The office of management and budget, in consultation with the office of the
20 postsecondary commissioner, shall oversee the apportionment and disbursement of all funds
21 appropriated for the purpose of the scholarship program.

22 **16-113-10. Funding of and sunset of pilot program.**

23 The Rhode Island hope scholarship pilot program shall be funded from July 1, 2023,
24 through and including July 1, ~~2028~~ 2030. There shall be no further funding of the pilot program
25 without further action of the general assembly. Any final reports due pursuant to this chapter shall
26 be filed pursuant to the dates set forth herein.

27 SECTION 2. 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 -- RHODE ISLAND HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PILOT
PROGRAM ACT

1 This act would extend the sunset date of the Rhode Island hope scholarship pilot program
2 from 2028 to 2030, in order to allow the program to provide eligible students with funding for
3 tuition and mandatory fees for an additional two (2) years.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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