

MAR 2 2001

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 495
BY FOEGE

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the tuition and fees charged by regents
2 institutions, community colleges, and Iowa private colleges
3 and universities to certain persons who were placed in foster
4 care or another out-of-home placement.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 495

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 261.28 TUITION AND FEES

2 EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS WHO RECEIVED FOSTER CARE.

3 1. For the purposes of this section, unless the context
4 otherwise requires, "eligible student" means an individual who
5 meets both of the following conditions:

6 a. The student was subject to a court order under chapter
7 232, division III or IV, which transferred the custody of the
8 student to the department of human services and the student
9 was in a foster care placement or another out-of-home
10 placement for a period of six months or longer at any of the
11 following times in the student's life:

12 (1) The day before the student's eighteenth birthday.

13 (2) The day of the student's fourteenth birthday, if the
14 student was eligible for adoption on or after that date.

15 (3) The day on which the student graduated from high
16 school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma.

17 b. The student enrolls in an undergraduate course of study
18 at a community college as defined in section 260C.2, an
19 institution of higher learning under the control of the state
20 board of regents, or an accredited private institution on or
21 before the third anniversary of the date the student was
22 discharged from foster care, graduated from high school, or
23 received the equivalent of a high school diploma.

24 2. a. An eligible student is exempt from payment of
25 undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees at a community
26 college as defined in section 260C.2 or an institution of
27 higher learning under the control of the state board of
28 regents.

29 b. Accredited private institutions are encouraged to
30 assist with the application process for a tuition grant and
31 other forms of financial assistance or use other means to
32 exempt an eligible student from payment of undergraduate
33 tuition and mandatory fees. Subject to an appropriation of
34 sufficient funding for this purpose, the college student aid
35 commission shall reimburse an accredited private institution

1 for the eligible student's undergraduate tuition and fees that
2 are not paid by tuition grants or other forms of financial
3 assistance, not to exceed the maximum amount of undergraduate
4 tuition and mandatory fees payable for a comparable course of
5 study at a community college or regents institution of higher
6 learning.

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EXPLANATION

8 This bill provides an exemption from the tuition and fees
9 charged by regents institutions and community colleges for
10 certain persons who were placed in foster care or another out-
11 of-home placement.

12 New Code section 261.28 would include the exemption as part
13 of the Code's college student aid commission chapter.

14 Eligibility is limited to students who were in the custody of
15 the department of human services under a child in need of
16 assistance or termination of parental rights court order and
17 in foster care placement for a period of six months or longer
18 at any of the following times: on the day prior to their 18th
19 birthday, on the day of their 14th birthday if eligible for
20 adoption, or on the day of high school graduation or the
21 receipt of an equivalency diploma. The student must be
22 enrolled in an undergraduate course of study at a community
23 college, regents institution, or Iowa private college or
24 university on or within three years of the date of discharge
25 from foster care, high school graduation, or receipt of the
26 equivalent of a high school diploma.

27 Iowa private colleges and universities are encouraged to
28 assist with the application process for an Iowa tuition grant
29 and other forms of financial assistance or to exempt such
30 students from payment of undergraduate tuition and mandatory
31 fees. Subject to an appropriation of funding for this
32 purpose, the college student aid commission is to reimburse
33 the private colleges and universities for tuition and fees
34 that are not paid by other forms of financial assistance up to
35 the maximum payable for comparable courses at community

1 colleges and regents institutions.

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