

Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 15, 2017

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Education to which was referred HB
607-FN-A,**

**AN ACT establishing a New Hampshire student access
grant program. Having considered the same, report the
same with the following amendment, and the
recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH
AMENDMENT.**

Rep. James Grenier

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Committee: | Education |
| Bill Number: | HB 607-FN-A |
| Title: | establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program. |
| Date: | February 15, 2017 |
| Consent Calendar: | CONSENT |
| Recommendation: | OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2017-0248h |

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill, as amended, will re-establish a program essentially the same as a previous Student Access Grant Program discontinued in 2011 during the budget process. This bill will provide financially challenged students who meet specific eligibility requirements to receive up to \$1,000 per year for up to four years. The student must be recognized as a New Hampshire scholar and have maintained a 2.5 grade point average on a scale of 4.0. The student must be Pell Grant eligible and be a graduate of a secondary New Hampshire school. The cost of administering this program will be very minimal. This bill, as amended, authorizes the receiving post-secondary public school to address eligibility of the student and report to the higher education commission for a one-time payment for all eligible students. There will be a need for initial minimal rulemaking by the higher education commission.

Vote 16-2.

Rep. James Grenier
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Education

HB 607-FN-A, establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. James Grenier for Education. This bill, as amended, will re-establish a program essentially the same as a previous Student Access Grant Program discontinued in 2011 during the budget process. This bill will provide financially challenged students who meet specific eligibility requirements to receive up to \$1,000 per year for up to four years. The student must be recognized as a New Hampshire scholar and have maintained a 2.5 grade point average on a scale of 4.0. The student must be Pell Grant eligible and be a graduate of a secondary New Hampshire school. The cost of administering this program will be very minimal. This bill, as amended, authorizes the receiving post-secondary public school to address eligibility of the student and report to the higher education commission for a one-time payment for all eligible students. There will be a need for initial minimal rulemaking by the higher education commission. **Vote 16-2.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Amendment to HB 607-FN-A

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 AN ACT establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program and making an
4 appropriation therefor.
5

6 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

7

8 1 New Section; New Hampshire Student Access Grant Program. Amend RSA 21-N by inserting
9 after section 8-b the following new section:

10 21-N:8-c New Hampshire Student Access Grant Program Established.

11 I. There is hereby established the New Hampshire student access grant program. The
12 purpose of this program is to provide postsecondary education and training opportunities to
13 graduates of any public or private secondary school approved for operation in New Hampshire by
14 the department of education, including chartered public schools, home educated students, and
15 students who have received a high school equivalency certificate, by providing a grant of up to
16 \$1,000 each year for a maximum of 4 years to eligible students pursuing a full-time degree program
17 at any public postsecondary educational institution in New Hampshire.

18 II. A student shall be eligible to apply for a grant under this program if the student:

19 (a) Is admitted as a first-year student to any public postsecondary educational
20 institution in New Hampshire approved by the United States Department of Education to receive
21 Title 4 funds and will be a full-time student in a degree program;

22 (b) Has graduated secondary school with at least a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0
23 scale, and has been designated by the secondary school as a New Hampshire scholar or its
24 equivalent; and

25 (c) Has submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is eligible to receive
26 a Pell grant.

27 III. A student shall submit a grant application to the postsecondary educational institution
28 on a form developed by the institution.

29 IV. Grant recipients shall maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
30 Grant recipients shall receive an award of up to \$1,000 each year for a maximum of 4 years.

31 V. Not later than August 1 of each academic year, the postsecondary educational institution
32 shall select the applicants who will receive a grant and shall submit to the higher education

1 commission a list of those applicants selected.

2 VI. Upon notification from the postsecondary educational institution, the higher education
3 commission shall disburse funds from the New Hampshire student access grant fund established in
4 this section to each institution to provide grants. If the amount in the fund is insufficient, the
5 amount shall be prorated proportionally among the applicants selected to receive a grant.

6 VII. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer a fund to be known as
7 the New Hampshire student access grant fund. The fund shall include any sums appropriated for
8 such purpose. In addition, the higher education commission may accept public sector and private
9 sector grants, gifts, or donations of any kind for the purpose of funding the provisions of this
10 section. The moneys in this fund shall be nonlapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the
11 higher education commission. The fund shall be expended by the higher education commission to
12 award grants to selected students in accordance with this section. The state treasurer may invest
13 moneys in the fund as provided by law, with interest received on such investment credited to the
14 fund.

15 VIII. The higher education commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative
16 to deadlines for a postsecondary educational institution to request disbursement of funds to grant
17 recipients.

18 2 New Subparagraph; Application of Receipts; New Hampshire Student Access Grant Fund.
19 Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (333) the following new subparagraph:

20 (334) Moneys deposited in the New Hampshire student access grant fund
21 established in RSA 21-N:8-c.

22 3 Appropriation. The sum of \$1 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 and the sum of \$1 for
23 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 are hereby appropriated to the higher education commission
24 for the purposes of the New Hampshire student access grant program established in RSA 21-N:8-c.
25 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not
26 otherwise appropriated.

27 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

HB 607-FN-A

This bill will re-establish a program essentially the same as a previous Student Access Grant Program discontinued in 2011 during the budget process. This bill will provide financially challenged students who meet specific eligibility to receive up to \$1,000/year for up to four years. The students must be recognized as a New Hampshire scholar, have maintained a 2.5 grade point average on a scale of 4.0. The student must be Pell Grant eligible and be a graduate of a secondary New Hampshire school. The cost of administering this program will very minimal. As amended, the receiving post-secondary public school will address eligibility of the student and report to the higher education commission for a one-time payment for all eligible students. There will be a need for initial minimal rulemaking by the higher education commission.

Rep. James L. Grenier
For the Committee
16-2 – OTP/A (2017-0248h) - CC

COMMITTEE REPORT

Grenier
RHS

COMMITTEE: Education

BILL NUMBER: HB 607-FN-A

TITLE: Establishing a new Hampshire student access grant program.

DATE: 2-7-2017 CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

- OUGHT TO PASS
- OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT
- INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- INTERIM STUDY (Available only 2nd year of biennium)

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Amendment No. <u>0248h</u> |
|-------------------------------|

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

Representative Jim Grenier for House Education:

This bill will re-establish a program essentially the same as ~~the~~ a previous Student Access Grant Program discontinued in 2011 ^{during the budget process} in ~~HB 2~~. This bill will provide financially challenged students who meet specific eligibility to receive up to ⁶1000/year for up to four years. The students ~~must~~ ^{must} be recognized as a New Hampshire Scholar, have maintained a 2.5 gpa on a scale of 4.0. The

COMMITTEE VOTE: _____

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

- Copy to Committee Bill File
- Use Another Report for Minority Report

Rep. James L. Grenier
For the Committee

Student must be Pell grant eligible, and
be a graduate of a secondary New
Hampshire school.

The cost of administering
this program will be very minimal.
As amended, the ^{receiving post secondary} ~~post secondary~~ public
school will address eligibility of
the student and report ~~the~~ to the
~~the~~ higher education commission for
a one time payment for all
eligible students. There will
be a need for initial minimal
^{rulemaking} ~~rules~~ by the higher education
commission; ~~these should~~ ^{will} be one
~~time and minimal.~~

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 607-FN-A

BILL TITLE: establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program.

DATE: 2-7-2017

LOB ROOM: 207

① Amendment

MOTION: (Please check one box)

OTP ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # 0248h (if offered)
 Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Grenier Seconded by Rep. T. Wolf Vote: 18-0

②

MOTION: (Please check one box)

OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____ (if offered)
 Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Grenier Seconded by Rep. T. Wolf Vote: 16-2

MOTION: (Please check one box)

OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____ (if offered)
 Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____ (if offered)
 Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

Minority Report? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, author, Rep: _____ Motion _____

Respectfully submitted: Rep Barbara Shaw
Rep Barbara Shaw, Clerk

① amendment



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/10/2017 9:30:55 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2017 SESSION

EDUCATION

Bill #: 607-FN-A Title: establishing a NH student access grant program

PH Date: 01/31/2017

Exec Session Date: 2/7/2017

Motion: OTP

Amendment #: ~~0235h~~ 0248h

| MEMBER | YEAS | NAYS |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Ladd, Rick M. Chariman | ✓ | |
| Wolf, Terry M. Vice Chairman | ✓ | |
| Cordelli, Glenn | ✓ | |
| Grenier, James L. | ✓ | |
| Pitre, Joseph A. | ✓ | |
| Elliott, Robert J. | ✓ | |
| Moore, Josh | ✓ | |
| Sullivan, Victoria L. | | |
| Halstead, Carolyn | ✓ | |
| Moffett, Michael | ✓ | |
| Wolf, Dan | ✓ | |
| Shaw, Barbara E. Clerk | ✓ | |
| Myler, Mel <i>Rep. Aitschiller</i> | ✓ | |
| Heath, Mary | ✓ | |
| Burton, Wayne M. | ✓ | |
| Cornell, Patricia | ✓ | |
| Doherty, David | ✓ | |
| Tanner, Linda L. | ✓ | |
| Le, Tamara | ✓ | |
| TOTAL VOTE: | 18 | 0 |

2



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/10/2017 9:30:55 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2017 SESSION

EDUCATION

Bill #: HB607-FN-A

Title:

*Establishing a new Hampshire Student
Access Grant Program.*

PH Date: 01/31/2017

Exec Session Date: 2/7/2017

Motion: OTP/A

Amendment #: 0248h

MEMBER

YEAS

NAYS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Ladd, Rick M. Chariman | ✓ | |
| Wolf, Terry M. Vice Chairman | ✓ | |
| Cordelli, Glenn | ✓ | |
| Grenier, James L. | ✓ | |
| Pitre, Joseph A. | ✓ | |
| Elliott, Robert J. | ✓ | |
| Moore, Josh | | ✓ |
| Sullivan, Victoria L. | | |
| Halstead, Carolyn | | ✓ |
| Moffett, Michael | ✓ | |
| Wolf, Dan | ✓ | |
| Shaw, Barbara E. Clerk | ✓ | |
| Myler, Mel Rep. Altschiller | ✓ | |
| Heath, Mary | ✓ | |
| Burton, Wayne M. | ✓ | |
| Cornell, Patricia | ✓ | |
| Doherty, David | ✓ | |
| Tanner, Linda L. | ✓ | |
| Le, Tamara | ✓ | |
| TOTAL VOTE: | | |

16

2

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26 otherwise appropriated.

27 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 607-FN-A

BILL TITLE: establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program.

DATE: January 31, 2017

LOB ROOM: 207 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 11:30 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 12:10 p.m.

Committee Members: Reps. Ladd, T. Wolf, Cordelli, Grenier, Pitre, V. Sullivan, Halstead, M. Moffett, Myler, Heath, Burton, Cornell, Doherty, Tanner and Shaw

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Grenier

Rep. Irwin

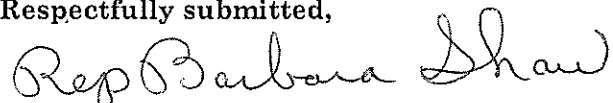
Sen. Watters

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

- (1.) *Rep. Jim Grenier - sponsor
* Written testimony
- (2.) *Scott Power - NHCUC & NH Scholars - supports
* Written testimony
- (3.) *Samy Ballemand - Nashua Community College - student
* Written testimony
 - could use financial support to finish her college studies
 - this bill could provide that assistance
- (4.) *Joshua Gagnon - supports - TRIO Upward Bound Programs NH
* Written testimony
- (5.) *Erin Wilburn - NHASFAA- supports
* Written testimony
- (6.) *Debora McCann - Educational Talent Search
* Written testimony
- (7.) *Anupreet Saini - NH H.S. Seniors.
* Written testimony
- (8.) *Cassandra Corliss - NH College Students
* Written testimony.
- (9.) *Melissa Goyait - NH Educational Opportunities Association
*Written testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



Rep. Barbara Shaw, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 607-FN-A

BILL TITLE: establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program.

DATE: 1-31-2017

ROOM: 207

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 11:30 AM

Time Adjourned: 12:10 PM

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Ladd, T. Wolf, Cordelli, Grenier, Pitre, Elliott, J-Moore, V. Sullivan, Halstead, M. Moffett, D-Wolf, Myler, Heath, Burton, Cornell, Doherty, Tanner, T-Le and Shaw

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Grenier

Rep. Irwin

Sen. Watters

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

- ① Rep. Jim Grenier - sponsor
* written testimony
- ② Scott Power - NHCUC & NH Scholars - supports
* written testimony
- ③ Samy Ballemard - Nashua Community College
student * written testimony
could use ^{financial} support to finish her college studies
this bill could provide that assistance
- ④ Joshua Gagnon - supports
* written testimony - TRIO Upward Bound Programs NH
- ⑤ Erin Wilburn - NHASFAA - supports
* written testimony
- ⑥ Debra McCann - Educational Talent Search
* written testimony
- ⑦ Anupreet Saini - NH H.S. Seniors
* written testimony

- ③ Cassandra Corless NH College Student
written testimony
- ④ Melissa Golait - NH Ed. Opportunities Association
written testimony

Respectfully submitted,
Rep Barbara Shaw, Clerk

11:30 AM

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # HB 607-FN-A Date January 31, 2017
 Committee Education

**** Please Print All Information ****

| Name | Address | Phone | Representing | (check one) | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|
| | | | | Pro | Con |
| Michele Merritt | | | New Futures | X | |
| Chris Alibrandi | NH Childrens Behavioral Health | | Collaborative | X | |
| Rep. Joe Githens | | | | | |
| Rep Michael Cahill | Newmarket | | Rock 11 | ✓ | |
| Rep Grenier | Sullivan T | | | ✓ | |
| Brendan Browne | | | NEA - NH | | ✓ |
| → Cheyenne Schafer | 20 Forest St. Concord NH | (603) 892-5314 | NH High School Seniors | ✓ | |
| Scott Power | 3 Barrell Ct Concord | 225-4199 | NH School 915 | ✓ | |
| Samy Dallemand | Nashua Community College | 603 9483919 | | ✓ | |
| Karina Locke, | 726 Washburn Rd, Alexandria | NH 03222 603-842-4142 | | ✓ | |
| JUNE HAMPE | 53 Osgood Rd. Kensington | NH 603-778-7223 | | ✓ | |
| Tyler Bergmeier | 1 Goodfellow RD Hanover | NH 03755 603 277 2101 | NH ASFAA | ✓ | |
| Hilly Stevens | 10 Ferry St. Concord | | New Futures | ✓ | |
| Michele Merritt | 10 Ferry St. Concord | | CBHC | ✓ | |
| Melissa Goyart | 54 N Mast St. Goffstown | NH | NH SOA | ✓ | |
| Debra McCann | 26 Kendal Ln. Strafford | | ETS | ✓ | |
| BRIN WILSON | 235 Elm ST Manchester | | NH INSEFA | ✓ | |
| Josue Gascon | NH upward Bound Programs | | | ✓ | |
| Amreet Saini | 66 NE Village rd | | NH H.S. Seniors | ✓ | |
| Cassandra Corliss | 8 Riverside Circle, Nashua | NH 603 321 0335 | NH College Seniors | ✓ | |
| Jane Murray | 505 Amherst St. Nashua | NH | Nashua Community College | ✓ | |

Testimony

1

Testimony on HB 607

House Education

January 31 at 11:30 AM; LOB 207

Representative Jim Grenier; Sullivan 7

Honorable Members of House Education,

I testify today in support of HB 607. This bill will establish the NH student access grant program. A similar program was repealed in 2011 (in HB 2). This program targets funds to needy students attending postsecondary private or public schools in NH. If adequate funds are available, each qualifying student will receive a grant of \$1000 yearly for up to four years. An important qualification for the grant will be the student qualifies for a Pell grant. This grant is the same regardless of the specific school tuition cost.

As a matter of policy, there can be no argument against this bill. NH does not have sufficient funds to significantly reduce tuition costs at our public postsecondary colleges. By targeting grant funds to our economically challenged students, we can prioritize the money where needed most. We are losing too many of our young men and women to other states because our resident public college tuition costs are being matched or even beaten in surrounding states. While this bill will also apply to private postsecondary schools, it will certainly be beneficial to many students attending our public postsecondary schools.

This bill does not seek an appropriation beyond the \$1 necessary to establish the program. It is important to note, however, that in the last year (2011) of the previous grant program the NH State appropriation was \$3,253,692. There will be an opportunity for funds to be received from varied sources to achieve the goal of this program and the Governor will be authorized to use funds from the treasury not otherwise appropriated. I feel the \$50,000 for DOE administration of this program and the same for each of two other like programs is too high and hope that can be addressed by this esteemed body.

There will be others to testify on additional details of this bill. I will be pleased to take your questions on my presentation, but do not wish to be redundant of the details to follow.

I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your attention and time.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Jim Grenier

Sullivan 7



3 Barrell Court, Suite 100 · Concord, NH 03301
(603) 225-4199 x300 · www.NHscholars.org



3 Barrell Court, Suite 100 · Concord, NH 03301
(603) 225-4199 · www.nhcuc.org

New Hampshire Scholars Initiative

The NH Scholars Initiative builds the capacity of school districts to enhance personalized learning, individualized progress and encourages students to take more rigorous course work. This happens through various strategies, most specifically by strengthening school/community partnerships. All students will graduate better prepared for college & career by exceeding graduation requirements and understanding the growing importance to attain high level skills.

The NH Scholars Initiative continues to build momentum in the state. What started as six pilot school districts has grown to eighty-two (82), by adding 76 districts since '09.

Students are encouraged to take prescribed rigorous core courses in high school. Through ongoing reinforcement activities beginning in middle school, students understand the importance of gaining high level skills through challenging coursework. By completing the NH Scholars core courses, students are better prepared for college-level work, test out of remedial classes and attain 21st century skills necessary in today's competitive workforce. The Core Course of Study is patterned after the recommendations made by the National Commission on Excellence in Education. Other courses may qualify including CTE Programs, ELOs, online classes, etc.

NH Scholars

- * 4 years of English
- * 4 years of Mathematics
- * 3 years of Lab-Science
- * 3 ½ years of Social Science
- * 2 years Foreign Language

NH Scholars STEM

- * 4 years of English
- * 4 years of Math
- * 4 years of Science (3 labs)
- * 3 ½ years of Social Study
- * 2 years Foreign Language
- * 1 yr or more STEM course
- * Minimum 3.2 GPA

NH Scholars Art

- * 4 years of English
- * 4 years of Math
- * 3 years of Lab-Science
- * 3 ½ years Social Study
- * 2 yrs Foreign Language
- * 2 yrs Art-related course
- * Minimum 3.2 GPA

The immediate impact is seen in course enrollments. Data from schools show significant increases within a two year period. School districts have had overwhelming success.

According to the National Student Clearinghouse

- More than **90%** of the 4,600 NH Scholars' 2015 graduates immediately enrolled in college the following fall
- Comparatively, only 65% of all the state's seniors immediately enroll in college (25% below NH Scholars avg)
- Last year's NH Scholars seniors graduated with a 3.4 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- 5,200 NH Scholars graduates in the Class of 2016 were recognized at NH Scholars Day

Endorsed by the NH Coalition for Business and Education (NHCBE)

- More than **400** business and community leaders volunteer as mentors in NH Scholar schools

New Hampshire colleges and universities are supporting the initiative by representing the program at high school award nights, offering free course vouchers, providing application fee waivers, offering merit awards and serving on local school advisory committees for New Hampshire Scholars high schools.

- Colleges offer scholarships for NH Scholars, especially within the STEM and Art Pathways.
- Prime candidate for **Fisher Cats Foundation Scholarship** managed by NHCUC



3 Barrell Court, Suite 100 · Concord, NH 03301
(603) 225-4199 x300 · www.NHscholars.org



3 Barrell Court, Suite 100 · Concord, NH 03301
(603) 225-4199 · www.nhcuc.org

New Hampshire Scholars Support of House Bill 607-FN-A

NH Scholars and NHCUC supports the proposed student access grant program. It is important for all students, especially Pell eligible students, to have access to funds that make college more affordable.

NH Scholars proposes a change to the language of the bill. Rather than simply requiring a student to graduate high school with a 2.0 grade point average, eligible students for this access grant should be required to graduate as a NH Scholar.

NH Scholars works diligently with 82 high schools to increase expectations and encourage students to enroll in a more rigorous curriculum. By adding this requirement to the HB 607 it accomplishes two major items:

- Provides high schools with local control to recognize students for academic achievement
- Raises quality of education and heightens student expectations

In 2016, NH Scholars graduated 5,200 students. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of graduating seniors in New Hampshire earned this distinction.

NH Scholars proposes that seniors who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant *AND* graduate with the distinction of a NH Scholar, be eligible for the New Hampshire student access grant program outlined in HB 607-FN-A.

If a student enters college unprepared, he/she is less likely to remain in college. These students then leave college without a degree yet still hold student loan debt. We know that students completing a rigorous course of study in high school enter college prepared for college-level work. These students (NH Scholars) are more likely to succeed in college-level courses, complete their degree and will successfully pay their student debt.

In summary, a NH Scholar graduate enters college with the tools to succeed and complete their degree. This is exactly the type of student New Hampshire should be rewarding with the proposed student access grant. It is imperative to provide incentive to New Hampshire's students that college is possible and affordable.

###

3

1/31/17 Samy Dylemand
Speech

The value of education is something that I have understood since a very young age. My parents did everything to help me achieve a bit of my dream. They sacrificed everything over the years to allow me to focus on education throughout primary and secondary school. Although money was tight, they made sure that I didn't worry about it. Now that I am in college, it hasn't been easy especially when I am not their only child. Books are so expensive the more classes you take the more you have to pay. Having this grant back will be such a blessing, for me, for my family especially for other students who have it worse than me. This grant would be a huge help. Up until now, I still haven't purchase all my books. I am currently spending most days at the library, trying to copy every page of certain books I can't afford. Graduating college is a goal and of mine and a dream for my parents. This grant can really make a difference to help us step just a little bit closer and conquer our dreams.



In Support of NH House Bill 607 – 2017
Joshua Gagnon – TRIO Upward Bound Programs, NH

The Reality of Financial Aid Gaps

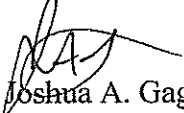
My name is Joshua Gagnon and I am here representing Upward Bound programs throughout the State of New Hampshire. The Upward Bound program, one of eight federal TRIO programs, helps low-income, potential first generation, high school students achieve their dreams of going on to and being successful in higher education. This is achieved through academic year advising and summer academic residential experiences geared towards providing the academic, financial literacy, social skills and motivation needed to succeed in and graduate from a college or university of their choice.

For many college-bound students, especially those from low-income/first-generation to college families that lack understanding of the financial aid process and the experience of taking on debt for the sake of future educational goals, the anticipation of higher education is overshadowed by financial anxieties. In order to be eligible for Financial Aid, students are required to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The information reported on the FAFSA is used to calculate the Expected Family Contribution, more commonly referred to as the EFC. The higher ED institution will then create a financial aid package based on that student's financial need (the Cost of Attendance minus the EFC). The lower your EFC score, the greater your financial need. We are seeing a growing trend in NH where our students financial aid packages have less grants and scholarships, more loans, and ultimately a larger financial aid gap; this is the amount of money a student will have to pay out of pocket because their aid package does not meet their financial need. In many instances, these financial aid packages from NH institutions are leaving students and families large unattainable gaps which causes students to give up on their dream of college or take on private loans saddling them with debilitating debt.

An analysis of financial aid packages from last year for TRIO students in NH with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of zero (that is a family income of \$25,000 or less) revealed significant financial gaps. At UNH, these students were offered an average of \$7500 in loans and a gap of \$2888. While loan amounts at Plymouth and Keene were smaller (\$6100 and \$5500) the gaps were significantly higher (\$5348 and \$6641). For students with an EFC higher than 0, their gaps were typically higher with less need-based loans available to them. Initial packages that our students have received this year indicate the trend continuing, and the gap widening in many cases. We have examples of students with an EFC around \$1000 facing a gap of \$8000 or more. The large financial gaps are due both to the cost of attending NH colleges and universities, and the lack of adequate financial aid. Many students are also struggling to attend community college due to increasing gaps and the obstacle that many of them do not have a car or access to public transportation. For students that are able to afford college, they often have a harder time their sophomore year when first year scholarships awarded at graduation disappear and college costs often rise. For our students, financial anxiety exists beyond trying to afford college. For many low-income students, an unforeseen car repair or medical bill can mean the end of their college hopes. While usually not large expenses, they can be enough to force these students into a tough choice: pay for their education or pay their other bills.

State institutions have the mission of meeting the educational needs of New Hampshire residents. This includes all residents, not just those who have a high income. Our students face a myriad of challenges coming from low-income families and communities. They recognize that education allows them to redress the multiple impacts of poverty and understand the value of a postsecondary education. However, regardless of their high school achievement or acceptance to college, the financial reality for many of them is that the gaps they face are insurmountable obstacles. As a result, highly qualified students are choosing not to go to college or they are dropping out after one or two years with significant debt and no degree. Is it right that a student coming from a NH family with an income of \$25,000 should be denied access to a NH postsecondary institution because they cannot afford to invest a significant percentage of their income? Your support of this bill would help to support the dreams of our students by helping to lessen the financial gap that prevents them from going to college. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joshua A. Gagnon
Upward Bound

My name is Erin Wilborn and I am speaking as the President-Elect of the New Hampshire Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NHASFAA) in support of House Bill 607-FN-A to establish a New Hampshire student access grant program. NHASFAA is a non-profit, professional organization consisting of institutions of higher education within the state of New Hampshire representing public, proprietary and private institutions whose financial aid personnel manage and administer student financial aid programs.

When the New Hampshire Incentive State Grant was discontinued in ²⁰¹¹2012, financial aid strategies with institutional dollars began to become seriously tangled in the endless debate between need-based aid and merit-based resources. Merit-based aid rewards a student for talent or interest which commonly defines student quality verses need-based aid which defines student access and doesn't discriminate by any factor apart from financial need. Financial aid professionals across New Hampshire discuss and examine this annually with enrollment management on how to best utilize institutional dollars to create quality while maintaining access with equity in institutional aid offers. An imbalance in these programs easily establishes obstacles to equal access for low to middle income students who do not necessarily have the same educational opportunities as their peers in secondary schools. Unfortunately, 48% of New Hampshire students are leaving the state to attend college due to external factors like cost and lack of overall funding available. This is where the establishment of a state grant for access would clearly demonstrate to our students and institutions that the State of New Hampshire is committed to student access across the State by assisting low to middle income students through this need-based grant program.

As we all know, student loan debt is also a serious matter in New Hampshire. The average student loan debt in 2015 for New Hampshire four-year college graduates was \$36,101 – the highest in the nation according to the New Hampshire Department of Education (*2016 edition of 'The Status of Higher Education in New Hampshire'*). 76% of 2015 New Hampshire college graduates from four year programs carry debt while the national average is 68%. The establishment of a New Hampshire state grant would also assist the low to middle income students with debt reduction and a starting point to reduce our overall student debt level here in New Hampshire. You may see this as \$4,000 award and commitment from New Hampshire, but:

- **The student who borrows Federal Direct Loans would see this as a \$4,667 reduction in loan debt;** and *(\$4,000 at the current interest rate of 3.76% at the standard ten year repayment schedule); and*
- **A student who borrows a private education loan with great credit would see this as a \$5,172 reduction in loan debt;** and *(\$4,000 at the average low interest rate of 6.19% at the standard ten year repayment schedule)*
- **A student who borrows a private education loan with average to minimal credit would see this as a \$7,164 reduction in loan debt;** and *(\$4,000 at the average high interest rate of 12.99% at the standard ten year repayment schedule)*

- **The parent who borrows a Federal Direct PLUS Loan on behalf of the student would see this as a \$5,519 reduction in loan debt.** (*\$4,000 at the current interest rate of 6.31% at the standard ten year repayment schedule*)

The State of New Hampshire has a responsibility to commit to access for New Hampshire students and assist in an effort to reduce loan debt for students and families. The establishment of an access grant for New Hampshire students would be significant to the beginning of this effort. Please do the right thing and move House Bill 607-FN-A to law and thank you for this opportunity to speak and represent the New Hampshire Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

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Debora McCann
26 Kendal Lane
Strafford NH 03884
nhmccann@metrocast.net

My name is Debora McCann and I am the Director of Educational Talent Search, a federally funded TRIO program. We work with more than 1200 low income students and students who will be the first in their family to attend college, in grades 6-12. We serve students in 11 middle schools and 20 high schools throughout NH. Our goal is to help students be successful in middle school and high school and ultimately to enroll in and graduate from some type of post-secondary education. By providing academic advising, career, college, financial aid and financial literacy information, ETS increases educational opportunities for these youth. We are in a unique position to understand what students from NH are receiving for financial aid. Each year we analyze the aid packages that our students receive from all types of institutions, both in-state and out-of-state. The opportunities for NH students have been increasingly limited and this change has been significant in the last few years. I support House Bill 607-the New Hampshire Student Access Grant proposal.

I would like to read a statement from Stephen McGrath, an ETS Advisor who works in the western region of NH.

Stephen McGrath
P.O. Box 600, 27 Ryder Corner Road
Sunapee, NH 03782
(603)-763-2543 sugarsoc@srnet.com

I am writing in support of House Bill 607 the New Hampshire Student Access Grant proposal. I am going to let the other professionals in the room testify as to the dollars and cents as well as to the rational that we the state do a poor job of funding our young people as they pursue a higher education. I am going to focus my comments on direct observations of what I see in the eyes of my students.

I work in an Educational Talent Search/TRIO program and work in 4 high schools and 2 middle schools. When I began this work some 32 years ago I could look a student in the eye, encourage them to do well in high school, to take a rigorous curriculum to include Honors and AP courses and be confident that they could go to college with only minimal debt. I cannot do that today. Today, if I am honest with them I really need to say that even after all the hard work that they did in high school they **will** be able to go to college BUT will have high debt and un-met financial need called GAP.

So what will the money from the New Hampshire Student Access Grant bill do? It will speak to the student that there is a reward for their academic effort in high school, a tangible recognition from the state that hard work does in fact pay off. If the bill is funded for 4 years it will reduce the amount that the student needs to borrow by \$4000 dollars. Looking at this another way, it will save the student \$4000 as well as the interest on that loan over 4 years @ 6.3% or \$1402 for a total savings on \$5402.00.

Yes I realize that there will be a substantial investment on the part of the state, but think of what we are investing in and encouraging. We are making a statement that if you work hard in school, if you come from a family of limited means, and if you want to go to college, the State of New Hampshire will recognize and reward your efforts. Something that we cannot say now.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 607

Sincerely,

Stephen McGrath

1

Perspective of NH High School Seniors:

I am representing high school seniors from across NH trying to find a way to afford college. I am currently a senior at Concord High School. When looking at the financial aid packages I have received, I worry about how I am going to afford going to college and the amount of debt that I will incur by the time I graduate. Here are some things that concern me about financial aid for NH students:

- NH is 50th in the country for funding higher education. Even if NH tripled the amount of funding/appropriations provided it would still be 50th in the nation.
- Because of this, colleges are developing financial aid strategies such as bringing in more higher income students as well as lower-achieving, out of state students, to manage their financial hardships. As a result, less low income and middle income NH students will be accepted into colleges
- NH has the highest average tuition in the country
- NH has the highest average student debt in the country
- NH has discontinued all state financial aid programs as of 2012 and is currently the only state (except for Georgia) that offers zero grant funding for higher education.

Anupreet Saini

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page 1

Cassandra Carlio

My name is Cassandra, I am a Liberal Arts Major at NCC. I have been going to school at NCC since august of 2015 and in this past year and a half or so I have learned a lot, but at a cost. If the NH Student Access Grant was established, it could ease the stress that Student Loan debt has on me and other eligible, hardworking students. It is hard to have a phone bill, medical bills, living expenses like food and housing, and school expenses that need to be paid for. It is even more difficult when you are a full time student who is active in extracurricular activities and a work study who can only work 15 hours weekly on minimum wage.

I Love the empowerment that knowledge gives me , but ~~sooooo~~ I am being stretched thin.

~~wage~~. Each year I get closer to graduating and moving on to a four year college, and each year I get more and more worried about how I will pay for school. I watch ^{The Amount of} ~~my~~ borrowed money rise and ~~rise~~ as I make less and ~~less~~ money trying to keep up with classes. Sometimes I am limited on the number of classes I take in a year in fear of accepting more loans, because I cannot afford it on my own. If I could help other students with the stresses that come with student loan debt by coming here today and sharing a little bit of my thoughts on what this NH Student Access Grant could do, then I am honored to be here. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

~~_____~~

NHEOA Perspective:

My name is Melissa Goyait the President of the New Hampshire Educational Opportunity Association (NHEOA) an association comprised of educational opportunity professionals that work with low income students all over the state of NH, in every region of NH. I am representing students and families from every county in NH.

Our organization has been working with Representative Jim Grenier to create this bill to replace the NH Incentive Grant that was eliminated in 2012. I understand that there are a few initiatives circulating around helping NH students get to college, however this one I strongly believe is the best fit for NH addressing low income students, the demographic that we serve. I believe that these efforts will not only help to break the cycle of poverty in NH, it will provide more skilled and educated workers in NH, and help to prevent students from moving out of state. I support this bill wholeheartedly and I ask for your support.

Through conversations with the NH DOE, I would like to make a few recommendations for modifications to House Bill 607 – NH Student Access Grant Program:

Administration of the Bill:

- Instead of having the student apply to the Higher Education Commission and having the grant administered by the HEC, I recommend that the administration of this grant be handled as it was earlier stated in the NH Incentive Grant program:

An applicant for a New Hampshire incentive program grant shall complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) distributed by the Office of Student Financial Assistance, U.S. Department of Education for the year in which the applicant seeks an award.

Financial aid offices at each institution will handle its administration and can be reimbursed by the HEC.

- To manage costs, limit the program to students enrolled full time only (not part time)
- Administrative rules must stipulate that this grant is not allowed to “replace” other awards

Amendments



Amendment to HB 607-FN-A

not adopted

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 AN ACT establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program and making an
4 appropriation therefor.
5

6 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

7

8 1 New Section; New Hampshire Student Access Grant Program. Amend RSA 21-N by inserting
9 after section 8-b the following new section:

10 21-N:8-c New Hampshire Student Access Grant Program Established.

11 I. There is hereby established the New Hampshire student access grant program. The
12 purpose of this program is to provide postsecondary education and training opportunities to
13 graduates of any public or private secondary school approved for operation in New Hampshire by
14 the department of education, including chartered public schools, home educated students, and
15 students who have received a high school equivalency certificate, by providing a grant of up to
16 \$1,000 each year for a maximum of 4 years to eligible students pursuing a full-time degree program
17 at any public postsecondary educational institution in New Hampshire.

18 II. A student shall be eligible to apply for a grant under this program if the student:

19 (a) Is admitted as a first-year student to any public postsecondary educational
20 institution in New Hampshire approved by the United States Department of Education to receive
21 Title 4 funds and will be pursuing a full-time degree program;

22 (b) Has graduated secondary school with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0
23 scale, and has been designated by the secondary school as a New Hampshire scholar or its
24 equivalent; and

25 (c) Has submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is eligible to receive
26 a Pell grant.

27 III. A student shall submit a grant application to the postsecondary educational institution
28 on a form developed by the institution.

29 IV. Grant recipients shall maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
30 Grant recipients shall receive an award of up to \$1,000 each year for a maximum of 4 years.

31 V. Not later than August 1 of each academic year, the postsecondary educational institution
32 shall select the applicants who will receive a grant and shall submit to the higher education
33 commission a list of those applicants selected.



1 VI. Upon notification from the postsecondary educational institution, the higher education
2 commission shall disburse funds from the New Hampshire student access grant fund established in
3 this section to each institution to provide grants. If the amount in the fund is insufficient, the
4 amount shall be prorated proportionally among the applicants selected to receive a grant.

5 VII. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer a fund to be known as
6 the New Hampshire student access grant fund. The fund shall include any sums appropriated for
7 such purpose. In addition, the higher education commission may accept public sector and private
8 sector grants, gifts, or donations of any kind for the purpose of funding the provisions of this
9 section. The moneys in this fund shall be nonlapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the
10 higher education commission. The fund shall be expended by the higher education commission to
11 award grants to selected students in accordance with this section. The state treasurer may invest
12 moneys in the fund as provided by law, with interest received on such investment credited to the
13 fund.

14 VIII. The higher education commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative
15 to deadlines for a postsecondary educational institution to request disbursement of funds to grant
16 recipients.

Bill as
Introduced

HB 607-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2017 SESSION

17-0537

04/05

HOUSE BILL

607-FN-A

AN ACT

establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Grenier, Sull. 7; Rep. Irwin, Sull. 6; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE:

Education

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes the New Hampshire student access grant program.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen

AN ACT establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Higher Education Commission. Amend RSA 21-N:8-a, II(e)(10) to read as follows:

2 (10) *Administer, at no cost to the state, all aspects of the New Hampshire*
3 *student access grant program established in RSA 21-N:8-c.*

4 (11) Assume other responsibilities as may be provided in state or federal law.

5 2 New Section; New Hampshire Student Access Grant Program. Amend RSA 21-N by inserting
6 after section 8-b the following new section:

7 21-N:8-c New Hampshire Student Access Grant Program Established.

8 I. There is hereby established the New Hampshire student access grant program which
9 shall be administered by the higher education commission. The purpose of this program is to
10 provide postsecondary education and training opportunities to graduates of any public or private
11 secondary school approved for operation in New Hampshire by the department of education,
12 including chartered public schools, home educated students, and students who have received a high
13 school equivalency certificate, by providing a grant of up to \$1,000 each year for a maximum of 4
14 years to eligible students pursuing a degree at any public or private postsecondary educational
15 institution in New Hampshire.

16 II. A student shall be eligible to apply for a grant under this program if he or she:

17 (a) Is admitted as a first-year student to any public or private postsecondary
18 educational institution in New Hampshire in a program approved by the United States Department
19 of Education to receive Title 4 funds;

20 (b) Has graduated secondary school with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0
21 scale; and

22 (c) Has submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is eligible to receive
23 a Pell grant.

24 III. Eligible students shall submit an application to the higher education commission, on a
25 form developed by the commission.

26 IV. Applicants who are selected to participate in this program shall pursue postsecondary
27 studies at a public or private postsecondary educational institution in New Hampshire and shall
28 maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Applicants selected shall receive a grant
29 of up to \$1,000 each year for a maximum of 4 years.

30 V. All funds in the New Hampshire student access grant fund established in this section
31 shall be used annually to provide grants under this program.

HB 607-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

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1 VI. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer a fund to be known as the
2 New Hampshire student access grant fund. The fund shall include any sums appropriated for such
3 purpose. In addition, the higher education commission may accept public sector and private sector
4 grants, gifts, or donations of any kind for the purpose of funding the provisions of this section. The
5 moneys in this fund shall be nonlapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the higher
6 education commission. The fund shall be expended by the higher education commission to award
7 grants to selected students in accordance with this section. The state treasurer may invest moneys
8 in the fund as provided by law, with interest received on such investment credited to the fund.

9 VII. The higher education commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

10 (a) Instituting a grant application process, including necessary forms and deadlines.

11 (b) Establishing academic and other standards by which grants shall be awarded.

12 (c) Establishing priorities in awarding grants where the funds available are less than
13 the amount needed for eligible applicants.

14 (d) Establishing procedures for awarding and disbursing grants.

15 3 New Subparagraph; Application of Receipts; New Hampshire Student Access Grant Fund.
16 Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (333) the following new subparagraph:

17 (334) Moneys deposited in the New Hampshire student access grant fund
18 established in RSA 21-N:8-c.

19 4 Appropriation. The sum of \$1 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 and the sum of \$1 for
20 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 are hereby appropriated to the higher education commission
21 for the purposes of the New Hampshire student access grant program established in RSA 21-N:8-c.
22 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not
23 otherwise appropriated.

24 5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

HB 607-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

| STATE: | Estimated Increase / (Decrease) | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | FY 2018 | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 |
| Appropriation | \$1 | \$1 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Revenue | Indeterminable Increase | Indeterminable Increase | Indeterminable Increase | Indeterminable Increase |
| Expenditures | Indeterminable Increase | Indeterminable Increase | Indeterminable Increase | Indeterminable Increase |
| <i>Funding Source:</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire Student Access Grant Fund | | | |

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes the New Hampshire student access grant program, to be administered by the Higher Education Commission, and is intended to provide grants for qualifying New Hampshire high school or equivalency certificate holders graduates pursuing a degree at a New Hampshire postsecondary educational institution. This bill also establishes a dedicated fund for the program where funds from any public or private grants, gifts, or donations may be accepted into the fund. It is assumed any costs to administer the program will be a charge against the fund. The Department of Education estimates development and approval of administrative rules would occur in FY 2018 with the program becoming operational in FY 2019. The Department further states it does not have the resources to develop the required rules and expects it would contract for such services at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Additionally, the Department states in FY 2019 and each year thereafter, depending on the rules ultimately developed, it may need up to three full-time employees to manage the program. This bill makes a general fund appropriation of \$1 in FY 2018 and \$1 in FY 2019 for this program.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education