

Bill as
Introduced

HB 607-FN-A - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

8Mar2017... 0248h

2017 SESSION

17-0537
04/05

HOUSE BILL **607-FN-A**

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

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

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

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

3 21-N:8-c New Hampshire Student Access Grant Program Established.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HB 607-FN-A - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

- Page 2 -

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

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

13 2 New Subparagraph; Application of Receipts; New Hampshire Student Access Grant Fund.
14 Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (333) the following new subparagraph:

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

17 3 Appropriation. The sum of \$1 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 and the sum of \$1 for
18 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 are hereby appropriated to the higher education commission
19 for the purposes of the New Hampshire student access grant program established in RSA 21-N:8-c.
20 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not
21 otherwise appropriated.

22 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

HB 607-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
 AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2017-0248h)

AN ACT (New Title) establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program and making an appropriation therefor.

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
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other New Hampshire Student Access Grant Fund			

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes the New Hampshire student access grant program and is intended to provide grants for qualifying New Hampshire high school or equivalency certificate holders graduates pursuing a degree at a New Hampshire public 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. The Department of Education states under this bill, postsecondary educational institutions would collect and submit lists of students eligible for this program and the Department would allocate available program funding over the number of eligible recipients. The Department expects administrative costs, if any, to be minimal. It is unknown if any outside funding sources would be available for this program and therefore the overall estimated impact on state revenues and expenditures is indeterminable. 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

**HB 607-FN-A FISCAL NOTE
 AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2017-0248h)**

AN ACT (New Title) establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program and making an appropriation therefor.

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AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education

Committee Minutes

Senate Education Committee

Kat Bourque 271-3091

HB 607-FN-A, establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program and making an appropriation therefor.

Hearing Date: April 4, 2017

Time Opened: 9:44 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:24 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Watters, Ward, Reagan and Kahn

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Giuda

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes the New Hampshire student access grant program.

Sponsors:

Rep. Grenier

Rep. Irwin

Sen. Watters

Who supports the bill: Senator Watters, Rep. Grenier, Rep. Ladd, Joshua Gagnon (Upward Bound), Ed McKay (NH Higher Ed. Commission), Tyler Bergmeier (NH Student Financial Aid Administrators), Debora McCann (Educational Talent Search), Melissa Goyait (NH Educational Oppor. Assn), Scott Power (NHCUC and NH Scholars), Shannon Reid (CCSNH), Pat Waldvogal (USNH), Rep. Irwin

Who opposes the bill: Will Anderson

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Rep. Grenier

Prime Sponsor

- This bill establishes a New Hampshire student access grant program.
- A similar program was repealed in 2011 in HB 2.
- If adequate funds are available, each qualified student will receive a grant up to \$1,000 yearly for up to four years.
- Eligibility for the grant requires a 2.5 GPA or higher, the student must be a NH Scholar, and the student must be in attendance for the full duration of the grant.
- By targeting grant funds to our economically challenged students, the state can prioritize funds where they are most needed.
- The state is losing too many young men and women who are moving out of state.
- There will be an opportunity for the Governor to use un-appropriated funds. This program will allow for proportional payment as well, if there are more qualified students than funds available.

- There has been a request by the Community College System for a few small changes for clarifications surrounding the idea of training.
- Senator Kahn asked what the name of the program was in 2011. Rep. Grenier stated that it was called New Hampshire Student Access Grant Program.

Joshua Gagnon
Upward Bound

- Mr. Gagnon spoke specifically to the lack of funding and the impact that this has on low income students.
- Mr. Gagnon submitted written testimony with information and statistics surrounding the bill.
- NH has the highest average tuition in the country.
- For low income students, their families are not able to pitch-in the extra thousands of dollars that these gaps require and they often lack the financial background to cosign for additional loans.
- In NH, 48 percent of recent high school graduates migrate out of state to attend two-year and four-year colleges and postsecondary career schools.
- Almost 60 percent of NH's four-year college-going high school graduates leave the state, making NH the highest exporter of four-year college students in the nation.

Ed MacKay
Division of Higher Education and Higher Education Commission

- Dr. MacKay spoke on the administrative process, should this bill be passed and implemented.
- Dr. MacKay submitted written testimony in support of the legislation.
- This legislation will encourage and enable students to not only enroll in a more rigorous curriculum while in high school, but earn college credits while in high school, matriculate at one of the NH public institutions, and earn a postsecondary education degree with less cost and debt.
- Senator Watters asked if there was any funding for this program now. Dr. MacKay stated that there is \$1 funding for this.
- Senator Kahn asked if this bill is looking for an appropriation. Dr. MacKay stated that if this is going to be a sustainable program, there will need to be funds from the general fund on a continued basis.
- Likely 4-5,000 students would be eligible in the first part of the biennium.

Tyler Bergmeier
New Hampshire Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

- Mr. Bergmeier spoke of his own experience as a first-generation college student. He is here as an example of the impact that grants like this can have on a student.
- The average student loan debt in 2015 for NH students was over \$36,000.
- The establishment of a NH state grant would be a starting point to reduce the overall

student debt load here in the state.

- Mr. Bergmeier stressed the importance of this legislation and of passing a state grant in the state.
- Senator Kahn asked if Mr. Bergmeier could make an estimate on the number of students who would be eligible. Mr. Bergmeier stated that this is difficult to do when looking at just full-time students. Mr. Bergmeier stated that maybe 15-20,000 students would qualify for this grant.

Debora McCann

Educational Talent Search

- Student financial aid packages are getting worse and are becoming much more of a challenge for families.
- It is becoming more of a challenge for students from the neediest families to be able to go to college.
- Student financial aid packages do not cover the items students need to go to college, like books, etc.
- Ms. McCann submitted written testimony.

Melissa Goyait

New Hampshire Educational Opportunity Association

- Ms. Goyait referred to testimony submitted by Mr. Gagnon.
- Accepting more high income students of low-achieving out of state students does not give enough opportunity to New Hampshire's own students.
- By supporting this bill, the legislature would be helping the state in providing more skilled workers and reducing the cycle of poverty in the state.

Shannon Reid

Community College System of New Hampshire

- Ms. Reid stated that if the committee chooses to move forward with this bill, they should consider on lines 9 and 14 of the bill, adding "or certificate programs."
- Certificate programs are a significant part of how the community college program works.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition : N/A

Neutral Information Presented: N/A

Future Action: Pending

KAB
Date Hearing Report completed: April 4, 2017

Speakers

o

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Date: 04/04/2017

Time: 9:40 AM

Hearing on HB 607-FN-A

HB 607-FN-A – Establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program and making an appropriation therefor.

Please check box (es) that apply:

SPEAKING FAVOR	OPPOSED	NAME (Please print)	REPRESENTING
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sen. David Watters	Dist # 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Jim Grenier	Sull 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Rick Laed	Haverhill
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will Anderson	Concord / self
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joshua Gagnon	/ upward Bound Projects
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Mackay	NH Higher Educ. Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tyler Bergmeier	NH Assoc Student Fin Aid Advisors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Debra McCann	Educational Talent Search
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Goguet	NH Educational Oppor. Ass.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scott Power	NHcuc and NH Scholars
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Reid	CCSNH
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pat Waldwyl	Wright
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w/Amendment

Testimony

...is a non-profit organization that brings together professionals in programs that support and prepare traditionally underserved students for success in education. These students are often the first generation in their family to attend college.

NH is currently 50th in the country in funding for higher education.

State Fiscal Support for Higher Education Per \$1,000 in Personal Income, FY2016						
USA	CT	ME	MA	NH	RI	VT
\$5.16	\$4.97	\$5.12	\$3.61	\$1.70	\$3.40	\$3.05

- NH state funding per full time equivalent student is \$3,660 (the nation's lowest)- CBS Money Watch
- The average state provided \$7,730 to its students
- The average student debt in 2016 for NH four-year college graduates was \$36,101 (this number only includes debt from government loans, if it included additional private loans, that number would be much higher) – the highest in the nation. Looking back, 76 percent of NH four-year graduates had student debt in 2015, up from 65 percent in 2004. Additionally, NH has discontinued all state financial aid programs as of 2012. The failure to fund higher education has lead colleges to develop financial aid strategies that undermine the support for students that need it the most. This has developed obstacles for both low and middle income families. (TICAS The Institute for College Access & Success)
- For low income students, their families are not able to pitch-in the extra thousands of dollars that these gaps require, and often they lack the financial background to cosign for additional loans. For middle income students, the gaps can climb even higher as they are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant each year (\$600-\$5,920 per year). Students that are at the top of their class are able to be awarded with merit scholarships that can help to fill this gap, however, average students, even “good” students, are not eligible for this money.
- We have professionals working with students in every region of NH; some of them have been serving students for decades. They are reporting that this is the worst year in history for students accessing higher education due both to the cost of attending NH colleges and universities, and the lack of adequate financial aid. Many students are not even able to afford to attend community colleges because of this obstacle, along with the fact that these students do not have a car or access to public transportation.
- NH has the highest average tuition in the country. With the trends that we are seeing, students are not able to go to college, or are needing to take on additional private loans averaging anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year. With that trend, our low income and middle income students could have up to \$132,000 in debt by the time they graduate; if they are able to graduate at all. Another obstacle for students is that many of their scholarships cover the first year only, and costs often go up each year. This causes students to drop out of college after a few years. Now they have tens of thousands of dollars in debt, and no degree to help them get a job to pay off student loans.
- Nationally, 18.8 percent of recent high school graduates leave their home to attend college out-of-state. In NH, however, 48 percent of recent high school graduates migrate out of the state to attend two-year and four-year colleges and postsecondary career schools. Almost 60 percent (59.6 percent) of NH's four-year, college-going high school graduates leave the state, making NH the highest exporter of four-year college students in the nation.

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



University of New Hampshire

April 3, 2017

In Support of NH House Bill 607 – 2017

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.

Upward Bound

Elizabeth Demeritt House
18 Garrison Avenue
Durham, NH 03824

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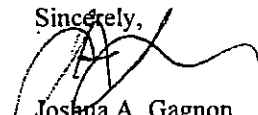
www.upwardbound.unh.edu

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, often had worse financial packages. Initial packages that our students have received this year indicate the trend continuing, and the gap widening in many cases. 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. 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 do 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 state college 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. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joshua A. Gagnon
Upward Bound

My name is Tyler Bergmeier. I come before you today as the Chair of the Government Relations Committee of the New Hampshire Association of Student Financial Administrators. Many years before becoming the chair of this committee I was something very different.

As a first generation college student from a low income family I am very familiar with this type of a grant. I paid my own way through an undergraduate degree, a teaching certificate and a master's degree. I stand here today as an example of the impact a state grant can have in the long term. I was a Pell eligible student when I attended college those many years ago and would have been eligible for this type of state grant.

These are the facts today:

- Currently, approximately 48% of New Hampshire students are leaving the state to attend college due to external factors like cost and lack of overall funding available. Also, 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'*).
- A \$1,000/year grant for four years (\$4,000) saves a student \$4,667 total in federal student loan debt (\$4,000 in principal and \$667 in interest).
- The establishment of a New Hampshire state grant would assist low to middle income students with debt reduction and would be a starting point to reduce the overall student debt level here in New Hampshire.

Please hear these numbers, these cold, hard facts, but use more than your head as you vote on this bill.

I ask you, today, to feel gratitude. Studies show that when a person feels gratitude for all that they have, they are more generous to others. Feel gratitude for your circumstance. Whether your circumstance was earned through hard work or through luck, or a combination of the two, pour that gratitude back into your community through supporting this grant. Do not discount the role of luck in your circumstance and, with gratitude, give back to your own community by voting yes on the establishment of this grant. This grant may very well be the first stroke of luck our neediest New Hampshire students have in their life.

I ask you, today, to be a visionary. Look past the price tag of this grant and see the investment we are making in the future of our students and our state. Look forward to the students who will choose to stay in our state to go to school, stay in our state to earn, and spend, money. Envision the future of a New Hampshire, not last in the nation in terms of funding for post-secondary education, but as a leader. That vision starts with you, today, having the vision to see not the cost of this grant but the investment that it truly is in our students, families and state.

I ask you, today, to be an advocate. Be an advocate for our neediest population. Fight for this grant in the great halls of our Statehouse for the families of NH that cannot be here today. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "We must learn that there is nothing greater than to do something for others..." Advocate for this grant because you know the impact this grant can have in the life of a NH student. I lived that impact as a low income, first generation college student and I have seen that impact on the students I have worked with over the 20 years I have been working in higher education. The impact of this grant is tangible and far reaching.

I ask you, today, to be a creator. Create opportunities for this grant to be approved. Create opportunities to work with your fellow legislators on this bill and others. Create opportunities for New Hampshire students to be successful in college and in their life after college. Create this first step towards financial independence for the neediest members of our communities. Creativity is characterized by the ability to perceive the world in new ways, to find hidden patterns, to make connections between seemingly unrelated phenomena, and to generate solutions- so be a creative creator.

When all is said and done in your life, know that today, this day, you felt gratitude towards your fellow NH residents, today you had a vision of a successful future for all students of New Hampshire schools, today you advocated for something outside yourself and today you created something wonderful in the lives of others.

Thank you.

Tyler Bergmeier

NHASFAA Government Relations Chair



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. Active school districts include:

- Academy for Science & Design
- Auburn
- Bedford
- Berlin
- Bishop Brady
- Bow
- Candia
- Claremont (Stevens)
- Colebrook Academy
- Concord
- Con-Val
- Dover
- Epping
- Exeter
- Fall Mountain Regional
- Farmington
- Franklin
- Gilford
- Goffstown
- Gorham
- Governor Wentworth (Kingswood)
- Groveton
- Hillsboro-Deering
- Hinsdale
- Hollis Brookline
- Hooksett
- Hopkinton
- Hudson (Alvirne)
- Inter-Lakes
- Jaffrey-Rindge (Conant)
- John Stark Regional
- Kearsarge Regional
- Keene
- Laconia
- Lin-wood
- Lisbon
- Litchfield (Campbell)
- Littleton
- Londonderry
- Manchester (all 4)
- Mascenic Regional
- Mascoma Valley
- Merrimack
- Merrimack Valley
- Milford
- Monadnock Regional
- Moultonborough Academy
- Nashua (North & South)
- Nashua Christian Academy
- Newfound Regional
- Newmarket
- Newport
- Nute
- Oyster River
- Pelham
- Pembroke Academy
- Pinkerton Academy
- Pittsburg
- Pittsfield
- Plymouth Regional
- Portsmouth
- Profile
- Prospect Mountain
- Raymond
- Rochester (Spaulding)
- Salem
- Sanborn Regional
- Shaker Regional (Belmont)
- Somersworth
- Souhegan
- The Founders Academy
- Timberlane Regional
- Trinity High School
- Virtual Learning Academy
- White Mountains Regional
- Wilton-Lyndeborough
- Windham
- Winnacunnet
- Winnisquam Regional
- Woodsville
- *Lebanon & Rivendell coming soon*

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

(over)

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

Initiative's Goals & Leadership

The goal of achieving statewide implementation is now a reality. Our objective is for all NH high schools to participate and to graduate at least 50% of all NH seniors as NH Scholars by 2017. Increasing the number of schools increases the number of students reached and increases NH Scholar graduates.

In an effort to increase visibility to the initiative and encourage other key constituents to engage in this statewide effort, we have developed a Leadership Board to provide oversight regarding the initiative's sustainability plan.

Chair, Senator Lou D'Allesandro, District 20, Vice Chair, Senate Ways & Means Committee

Amanda Grappone Osmer, CEO, Grappone Automotive

Amy Schwartz, Associate Vice Chancellor, University System of New Hampshire

Brennan Barnard, Director, College Counseling, The Derryfield School

Chris Hodgdon, Vice President, Government Affairs, Comcast

Dave Juvet, Sr. Vice-President, NH Business & Industry Association

David Cuzzi, President, Prospect Hill Strategies

Deborah Scire, Executive Director, Campus Compact for NH

Dr. Ed MacKay, Director, Higher Education Commission, NH Dept. of Education

Dr. Patty Lynott, Provost/Sr. VP Academic Affairs, Southern New Hampshire University

Dr. Susan Huard, President, Manchester Community College

Dr. Tom Horgan, President/CEO, NH College & University Council

Fred Kocher, President, Kocher & Company

Heather Gage, Chief of Staff, NH Department of Education

Holly Vieten, Past-President, NH School Counselor Association (Inter-Lakes High School)

Kate Luczko, President/CEO, Stay Work Play New Hampshire

Lucille Jordan, President, Nashua Community College

Marjorie Chiafery, Superintendent, Merrimack School District

Mark Lambert, Director, Government Affairs, Unutil

Matt Cookson, Executive Director, NH High Tech Council & President, Cookson Strategies Corp.

Matt Pierson, Owner/Founder, 10X Venture Partners

Michael L'Ecuyer, President/CEO, Bellwether Community Credit Union

Phil Suter, President/CEO, Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce

Representative Mary Gile, District 27, House Education Committee

Scott Power, Director, New Hampshire Scholars Initiative (NHCUC)

Scott Spradling, President, The Spradling Group

Senator Dan Feltes, District 15, Senate Ways & Means Committee

Senator Regina Birdsell, District 19, Chair, Senate Public & Municipal Affairs Committee

Tom Raffio, President/CEO, Northeast Delta Dental and Chair, State Board of Education

Senate Education Committee
April 4, 2017 Hearing on HB 607
Establishing a Student Access Grant Program
Ed MacKay

Chairman Reagan and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 607, a bill that will establish a student access grant program in New Hampshire. My primary role today is to explain the process for administration of the proposed program and do so as the Director of the Division of Higher Education and Higher Education Commission, Department of Education. The broader context is my participation with many other individuals and groups, including the Coalition for Business & Education, BIA, High Tech Council, and NHCF, on addressing our workforce challenges. If New Hampshire is to sustain its economic vitality and quality of life, then we must take actions which will encourage and incentivize K-12 students to enroll in courses that will prepare them for success in college and careers, matriculate at in-state colleges and universities, and "stay work play" in the Granite State.

The proposed process for management of the student access grant program will eliminate any significant burden on state agencies, and not create any bureaucratic structure that must be maintained. On or before the stated annual deadline (August 1st), the USNH and CCSNH will collect information from their respective institutions on the number of NH resident full time students who meet the eligibility requirements and submit that information to the Higher Education Commission (HEC). These requirements include having earned NH Scholar status (or equivalent) and a 2.5 GPA in high school.

The HEC will total the number of qualified students, and then divide that number into the total dollars available for distribution. As an example, if there are 5,000 eligible students and \$2.5 million available, then each student will receive a \$500 grant. The dollars will be provided to each of the public systems in a single payment, and it will be the responsibility of the respective system to allocate the appropriate amount to each campus financial aid office for award to eligible students.

Under this approach the HEC will not be involved in determining eligibility or in the disbursements of individual student awards. There would be a minor one-time cost in drafting Administrative Rules and annually in managing the above process, but these costs can be absorbed through existing resources and no additional appropriation would be required to implement the program.

The evidence is clear, students who enroll in a more challenging set of core courses such as defined in the NH Scholars program (attached) are more likely to pursue postsecondary education. Complementary initiatives such as "I Am College Bound, I Applied" and FSAFA Completion are specifically targeted for students eligible for the

Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) program, and have produced meaningful increases in college going rates and persistence/graduation. The FRL population is critical for New Hampshire's future, as the proportion of eligible students is growing rapidly with districts such as Ashland, Berlin, Claremont, Croydon, Laconia, Manchester, Pittsfield, Stratford, and Winchester already having FRL rates exceeding 50%.

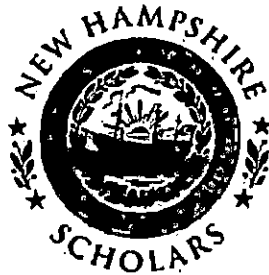
Significant funding for HB 607 and aligned proposals such as HB 641 (support for Dual and Concurrent Education) will encourage and enable students to not only enroll in a more rigorous curriculum while in high school, but earn college credits while in HS (particularly in STEM and STEM-related courses), matriculate at one of the NH public institutions, and earn a postsecondary education degree with less cost and debt.

Thank you for your attention, and hopefully, support for HB 607.

New Hampshire Scholars Initiative Pathways

NH Scholars

- 4 years/credits of English
- 4 years/credits of Math
(inc. Alg I & II, Geometry, and 1 other competency)
- 3 years/credits of Lab-Science
(including Biology and Chemistry, and 1 more chosen from Physics, A&P, etc)
- 3 ½ years/credits of Social Science
(i.e. U.S. History, Gov't, Geography, Psychology, Financial Literacy, Business, Marketing, etc)
- 2 years/credits of a Foreign Language
- Encourage students/high schools to seek experiential learning opportunities and community partnerships/business mentorships



www.NHscholars.org

NH Scholars w/ STEM Emphasis

- 4 years/credits of English
- 4 years/credits of Math
(inc. Alg I & II, Geometry, and 1 other competency)
- 4 yrs/cr of Science *(including 3 labs)*
(Including Bio and Chem and 2 others chosen from Physics, A&P, Computer Science, Pre-Engineering, etc)
- 3 ½ years/credits of Social Science
(i.e. U.S. History, Gov't, Geography, Psychology, Financial Literacy, Business, Marketing, etc)
- 2 years/credits of a Foreign Language
- 1 yr/cr (or more) chosen from STEM-related courses in Science, Math, Technology, Engineering, Computers, Advanced Manufacturing, including CTE Program, Project Lead The Way, etc. (can't count a course twice)
- Minimum 3.2 GPA (4.0 scale)
- Encourage students/high schools to seek experiential learning opportunities and community partnerships

NH Scholars w/ Arts Emphasis

- 4 years/credits of English
- 4 years/credits of Math
(inc. Alg I & II, Geometry, and 1 other competency)
- 3 years/credits of Lab-Science
(including Biology and Chemistry, and 1 more chosen from Physics, A&P, etc)
- 3 ½ years/credits of Social Science
(i.e. U.S. History, Gov't, Geography, Psychology, Financial Literacy, Business, Marketing, etc)
- 2 years/credits of a Foreign Language
- 2 years/credits chosen from Visual Arts, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Music, Graphic Design, etc.
- Minimum 3.2 GPA (4.0 scale)
- Encourage students/high schools to seek experiential learning opportunities and community partnerships/business mentorships

Testimony on HB 607

Senate Education

April 4 at 9:40 AM; LOB 103

Representative Jim Grenier; Sullivan 7

Honorable Members of Senate 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 up to \$1000 yearly for up to four years. This grant is the same regardless of the specific school tuition cost. Eligibility for the grant requires a 2.5 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale, the student must qualify for a Pell grant, be a NH Scholar and the student must be in attendance full-time for the duration of the grant. Students in full-time training opportunities will also qualify for the grant.

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. This program will support the present need for an expanded skilled work force. 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 (of course, aa Governor appropriation will be the preferred method of funding). This grant program will allow for proportional payment if there are more qualified students than funds available. As an amendment to the original bill, the administration of the program will be carried out almost exclusively by the receiving postsecondary institution; rendering administrative costs to the state agencies negligible.

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.

With Respect,

Representative Jim Grenier

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

THE COMMITTEE ON Education

to which was referred HB 607-FN-A

AN ACT

establishing a New Hampshire student access
grant program and making an appropriation
therefor.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

IS INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

Senator Jay Kahn
For the Committee

This bill would establish the New Hampshire student access grant program to provide postsecondary education and training opportunities to graduates of any public or private secondary school along with a grant of \$1,000 for up to four years to eligible students. The committee believes that this legislation can be accomplished with a direct appropriation to hold down in-state tuition increases.

Kat Bourque 271-3091

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

EDUCATION

HB 607-FN-A, establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program and making an appropriation therefor.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0.

Senator Jay Kahn for the committee.

This bill would establish the New Hampshire student access grant program to provide postsecondary education and training opportunities to graduates of any public or private secondary school along with a grant of \$1,000 for up to four years to eligible students. The committee believes that this legislation can be accomplished with a direct appropriation to hold down in-state tuition increases.