

HB 604-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2017 SESSION

17-0148

04/06

HOUSE BILL

604-FN-A

AN ACT establishing the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity program and making an appropriation therefor.

SPONSORS: Rep. Burton, Straf. 6; Rep. Myler, Merr. 10; Rep. Porter, Hills. 1; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity program which would award scholarships to certain students pursuing postsecondary education at any institution in the community college system of New Hampshire and makes an appropriation to fund the 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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity program and making an appropriation therefor.

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

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

2 (10) ***Administer all aspects of the John and Molly Stark workforce***
3 ***opportunity 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; John and Molly Stark Workforce Opportunity Program. Amend RSA 21-N by
6 inserting after section 8-b the following new section:

7 21-N:8-c John and Molly Stark Workforce Opportunity Program Established.

8 I. There is hereby established the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity program
9 which shall be administered by the higher education commission. The purpose of this program is to
10 provide support for public postsecondary education opportunities to New Hampshire residents who
11 are graduates of any public or private secondary school authorized to operate in New Hampshire,
12 which shall include chartered public schools, home educated students, and students who have
13 received a high school equivalency certificate, by providing a scholarship equivalent to the unmet
14 financial need for each recipient each year. All funds received pursuant to this section shall be
15 nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the higher education commission for the purposes of
16 this program.

17 II. A student who is interested in pursuing education at any institution in the community
18 college system of New Hampshire shall be eligible to apply for the program. An eligible student
19 shall submit an application to the higher education commission, on a form developed by the
20 commission.

21 III. Applicants who are selected to participate in this program shall maintain satisfactory
22 academic progress, as defined by the institution, and meet such other criteria as may be established
23 in this section. An applicant selected shall receive a scholarship equivalent to his or her unmet
24 need each year for a maximum of 2 years. In this section, "unmet need" is the difference between
25 the expected cost of tuition and fees less any grant aid and scholarships received by the student.

26 IV. All funds in the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity fund established in this
27 section shall be used annually to provide scholarships under this program.

28 V. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer a fund to be known as the
29 John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity fund. The fund shall include any sums appropriated
30 for such purpose. In addition, the higher education commission may accept public sector and

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1 private grants, gifts, or donations of any kind for the purpose of funding this program. All funds
2 received from gifts, grants, or donations from private sources shall be eligible for state matching
3 funds, to the extent of available funds. The moneys in this fund shall be nonlapsing and shall be
4 continually appropriated to the higher education commission. The fund shall be expended by the
5 higher education commission to award scholarships to selected students in accordance with this
6 section. The state treasurer may invest moneys in the fund as provided by law, with interest
7 received on such investment credited to the fund.

8 VI. The higher education commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to
9 the following:

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

12 (b) Establishing academic and other standards by which scholarships shall be awarded.

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

15 (d) Establishing procedures for awarding and disbursing scholarships.

16 3 New Subparagraph; Application of Receipts; John and Molly Stark Workforce Opportunity
17 Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (333) the following new
18 subparagraph:

19 (334) Moneys deposited in the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity fund
20 established in RSA 21-N:8-c.

21 4 Appropriation. The sum of \$500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 and the sum of
22 \$500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 are hereby appropriated to the higher education
23 commission for the purposes of the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity program
24 established in RSA 21-N:8-c. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any
25 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

26 5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

**HB 604-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT establishing the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity 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	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$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"/> John and Molly Stark Workforce Opportunity Fund			

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity program, to be administered by the Higher Education Commission, and is intended to provide scholarships to qualifying New Hampshire high school graduates or equivalency certificate holders pursuing a degree from any institution in the Community College System of New Hampshire. 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 \$500,000 in FY 2018 and \$500,000 in FY 2019 for this program.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education