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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

H.B. 697
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. G. Manning

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SUMMARY

- Specifies that an eligible student who transfers to a state institution of higher education in the 2020-2021 academic year must receive an Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) award amount that is not less than what the student received in the prior year.
- Requires the state institution in which the student enrolls to apply an OCOG award described above to the student's general and instructional fees prior to applying the student federal Pell grant.
- Declares an emergency.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

2020-2021 OCOG awards for eligible students

The bill specifies that a student who transfers to a state institution of higher education in the 2020-2021 academic year and received an Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) award in the 2019-2020 academic year must receive an OCOG award amount in the 2020-2021 academic year that is not less than what the student received the prior year. Thus, even if the state institution to which the student transfers would otherwise qualify the student for a lower OCOG award amount, the student would receive the higher amount that the student received in the previous year. On the other hand, if a student transfers from an institution that qualifies a student for a lower OCOG award amount to one that qualifies a student for a higher OCOG award amount, the student would receive an OCOG award for the higher amount. In other words, the student always receives the highest OCOG award amount.

Furthermore, the bill requires the state institution in which that student enrolls to apply the OCOG award to the student's instructional and general fees prior to applying the student's

federal Pell grant to those fees. However, it specifies that no award amount may exceed the total state cost of attendance, except as provided under continuing law.¹

For the purposes of the bill, a state institution of higher education is any of the 13 state universities, the Northeast Ohio Medical University, community colleges, state community colleges, technical colleges, and university branch campuses.²

Background

The Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program provides needs-based financial aid for students in higher education based on their expected family contribution (EFC), as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).³

Generally, continuing law requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to determine the maximum per student award amount for each institutional sector by subtracting the sum of the maximum EFC, as determined by the Chancellor, and the maximum Pell award from the average instructional and general fees charged by the institutional sector.⁴

Additionally, the Chancellor's rules for OCOG require a participating post-secondary institution to apply an OCOG award to a student's instructional and general fees for an academic year after the student's federal Pell grant and EFC allotment have been applied to those fees.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-10-20

H0697-I-133/ar

¹ Section 1 and 2, in the bill.

² Section 1(A)(2), in the bill, and R.C. 3345.011, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 3333.122, not in the bill. See also: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/ocog>.

⁴ R.C. 3333.122(D), not in the bill.

⁵ Ohio Administrative Code 3333-1-09.1(H)(2)(b).