

HOUSE BILL No. 4559

March 29, 2007, Introduced by Reps. Meisner, Hammon, Hammel, Donigan, Accavitti, Byrnes, Sheltroun, Lahti, Tobocman, Dean, Condino, Johnson, Clack, Leland, Robert Jones, Polidori, Young, Valentine, Kathleen Law, Vagnozzi, Cushingberry, Hopgood, Ebli, Lemmons, Miller, Gonzales, Clemente, Constan, Bauer and Jackson and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

A bill to provide tuition reimbursement for certain entrepreneurship courses; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state departments.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "entrepreneurship education act".

3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Approved school" means any of the following:

5 (i) A degree or certificate granting college, university, or
6 community or junior college in this state.

7 (ii) A school licensed or regulated by the department to do
8 business in this state.

9 (iii) A state or federal agency or commission.

1 (iv) A nonprofit association, corporation, or foundation
2 approved by the department to provide courses in entrepreneurship.

3 (b) "Courses in entrepreneurship" means educational courses or
4 classes that provide a student with the fundamental aspects of
5 starting or operating a small business or venture, including, but
6 not limited to, the profile of an entrepreneur, opportunity
7 recognition, business feasibility assessment, building a business
8 model, industry and market competition, market analysis, pricing,
9 financial analysis and statements relating to start-up costs,
10 operational expenses, and cash flow, raising capital, and
11 developing a business plan. The term includes, but is not limited
12 to, a course that is part of a broader curriculum or degree or
13 certificate program in entrepreneurial or small business management
14 or administration.

15 (c) "Department" means the department of labor and economic
16 growth.

17 (d) "Eligible student" means an individual who meets all of
18 the following:

19 (i) Has not previously received any tuition reimbursement from
20 the department under this act.

21 (ii) Is a United States citizen or permanent resident of the
22 United States.

23 (iii) Has resided continuously in this state for the 12 months
24 immediately preceding the academic year and is not a resident of
25 any other state.

26 (iv) Has not been convicted of a felony involving an assault,
27 physical injury, or death.

1 (v) Meets any other standards established in rules promulgated
2 by the department under this act.

3 (e) "Fund" means the entrepreneurship education grant fund
4 created in section 5.

5 Sec. 5. (1) The entrepreneurship education grant fund is
6 established in the department of treasury. The fund shall consist
7 of money appropriated, donated, or paid to the fund from any source
8 and interest and earnings from fund investments.

9 (2) The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the
10 fund.

11 (3) Money in the fund at the close of a fiscal year shall
12 remain in the fund and shall not revert to the general fund.

13 (4) Money in the fund shall be disbursed to the department for
14 tuition reimbursements under this act and the administrative costs
15 of the department in implementing and administering this act.

16 Sec. 7. (1) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), an eligible
17 student who successfully completes 1 or more courses in
18 entrepreneurship at an approved school is eligible for and may
19 receive reimbursement from the department for the tuition he or she
20 paid the approved school for the course or courses. To receive
21 reimbursement under this subsection, the student must submit an
22 application for reimbursement to the department that includes a
23 certificate of completion from the approved school, or other
24 verification acceptable to the department of successful completion
25 of the course or courses, and proof of the amount he or she paid
26 the approved school for tuition for the course or courses.

27 (2) The department may establish the form or format of the

1 tuition reimbursement application and may require that an eligible
2 student provide additional evidence of successful completion of the
3 course or courses or proof of payment of tuition after the
4 department has reviewed his or her grant application.

5 (3) The maximum amount of tuition reimbursement an eligible
6 student may receive under this act is the amount of tuition paid by
7 the student to the approved school for the course or courses in
8 entrepreneurship, or \$300.00, whichever is less.

9 (4) A student who has previously received tuition
10 reimbursement under subsection (3) in any amount is not eligible
11 for and shall not receive tuition reimbursement under this act for
12 successful completion of any other courses in entrepreneurship.

13 Sec. 9. (1) The department shall annually assess the
14 performance of approved schools in providing effective
15 entrepreneurship education.

16 (2) The authority may promulgate rules pursuant to the
17 administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to
18 24.328, to do any of the following:

19 (a) To implement and administer this act.

20 (b) To regulate the offering of courses in entrepreneurship,
21 including, but not limited to, the type and conditions of
22 instruction, the qualification of instructors, the methods of
23 grading, the means of monitoring and reporting attendance, and the
24 representations made by approved schools concerning the course or
25 courses.