

SENATE BILL NO. 407

June 22, 2023, Introduced by Senators CAVANAGH and ANTHONY and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to amend 2020 PA 84, entitled "Michigan reconnect grant act," by amending sections 1 and 5 (MCL 390.1701 and 390.1705), as amended by 2022 PA 251.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. (1) This act may be cited as the "Michigan reconnect
2 grant act".

3 (2) The reconnect program and reconnect initiative created
4 respectively in this act and the Michigan reconnect grant recipient

1 act, 2020 PA 68, MCL 390.1711 to 390.1723, are intended to provide
 2 last-dollar financial assistance to individuals **who, subject to**
 3 **sections 15(a) and 21(1)(e)(ii)(A) of the Michigan reconnect grant**
 4 **recipient act, 2020 PA 68, MCL 390.1715 and 390.1721, are** age ~~25~~–21
 5 and older ~~seeking~~ **and seek** associate degrees or industry-recognized
 6 certificates or credentials; to provide those individuals with
 7 greater access to the education and skills needed to succeed in,
 8 and meet the demands of, an evolving economy in which there is
 9 continuing demand for a talented local workforce; to drive
 10 innovations specific to adult learners in this state's community
 11 colleges; to mitigate educational equity gaps in the furtherance of
 12 individual prosperity; and to achieve the goal of increasing the
 13 number of residents ages 25 to 64 with a college degree or skill
 14 certificate or credential to 60% by 2030.

15 Sec. 5. The Michigan reconnect grant program is created in the
 16 department for the purpose of providing Michigan reconnect grants
 17 to individuals eligible for those grants under the Michigan
 18 reconnect grant recipient act, 2020 PA 68, MCL 390.1711 to
 19 390.1723. The department shall do all of the following:

- 20 (a) Develop and administer the program.
- 21 (b) Create and maintain a program website.
- 22 (c) Create and maintain a marketing campaign for the program.
- 23 (d) Operate a help desk for the program.
- 24 (e) Create and maintain a network of navigators to help
 25 Michigan reconnect grant students navigate the path to college,
 26 supporting but not supplanting the programming and assistance
 27 offered by community colleges. In connection with maintaining this
 28 network of navigators, the department shall ensure that navigators
 29 are instructed to inform Michigan reconnect grant applicants of any

1 relevant policies for earning credit for prior learning, as
2 described in section 3(c) (iv) (B), and connect Michigan reconnect
3 grant applicants to their local workforce development agency for
4 additional support services and registration with their local
5 career services office.

6 (f) Provide Michigan reconnect grant students with information
7 about skills in demand and related compensation in the local labor
8 market.

9 (g) Partner with the center to report, in a user-friendly
10 format, credential completion outcomes of Michigan reconnect grant
11 students.

12 (h) To facilitate the reporting of valid and reliable
13 longitudinal data under subdivision (g), ensure that all eligible
14 institutions and other individuals and entities that participate in
15 the implementation of the Michigan reconnect grant program use the
16 unique statewide student identification codes issued by the center
17 to track Michigan reconnect grant students in accordance with
18 section 94a of the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL
19 388.1694a, and require eligible institutions to identify and report
20 at the student level any attempts and completion for gateway
21 English and mathematics courses in a form and manner as prescribed
22 by the center.

23 (i) Establish a process to allow eligible institutions to be
24 reimbursed for awarding credit for prior learning at a rate of
25 \$80.00 per credit hour for credit awarded to Michigan reconnect
26 grant students for Advanced Placement, CLEP, DSST, military
27 training, industry credentials, work-based learning, portfolio
28 assessment, and other types of credit for prior learning as
29 determined by the department.

1 (j) As part of the department's responsibility to better
2 connect education and training demands in the labor market with
3 qualified degree, training, and apprenticeship programs, facilitate
4 efforts by businesses, unions, and community colleges to
5 effectively match skills provided with those in demand and
6 encourage eligible institutions across this state to adopt
7 consistent placement policies.

8 (k) To facilitate maximum 4-year completion rates for Michigan
9 reconnect grant students, implement all of the following program
10 requirements:

11 (i) The center shall provide each eligible institution with a
12 4-year adult completion rate baseline that reflects the percentage
13 of degree-seeking adult students age 25 and up who enrolled at that
14 institution in the fall of 2017 and earned an associate degree or
15 occupational certificate, or transferred to a 4-year university or
16 college, by August 2021. Degree-seeking adult students age 25 and
17 up who enrolled at the institution in the fall of 2017 and
18 transferred to another eligible institution must be subtracted from
19 both the numerator and denominator in calculating the 4-year adult
20 completion rate baseline.

21 (ii) The center shall annually provide the department each
22 eligible institution's credential completion numbers and rates. ~~to~~
23 ~~determine whether the institution has maintained full program~~
24 ~~standing.~~ To assist the center in this annual reporting, by a
25 deadline set by the department, each eligible institution shall
26 provide the center with a preliminary calculation of the
27 institution's previous year's credential completion numbers and
28 rates. The center shall consider an institution's preliminary
29 calculations when making its independent determination of the

1 institution's credential completion numbers and rates. ~~To maintain~~
2 ~~full program standing, an institution must achieve 1 of the~~
3 ~~following, as applicable:~~

4 ~~(A) For an institution with a 4-year adult completion rate~~
5 ~~baseline as provided by the center under subparagraph (i) of less~~
6 ~~than 30%, the institution must subsequently achieve each year a 4-~~
7 ~~year completion rate that is no less than 3 percentage points~~
8 ~~greater than its immediately preceding 4-year completion rate until~~
9 ~~a 30% 4-year completion rate is attained; then must subsequently~~
10 ~~achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is no less than 2~~
11 ~~percentage points greater than its immediately preceding 4-year~~
12 ~~rate until a 50% 4-year completion rate is attained; and then must~~
13 ~~subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is~~
14 ~~greater, by no specific measure, than its immediately preceding 4-~~
15 ~~year completion rate until a 75% 4-year completion rate is~~
16 ~~attained.~~

17 ~~(B) For an institution with a 4-year adult completion rate~~
18 ~~baseline as provided by the center under subparagraph (i) equal to~~
19 ~~or greater than 30% and less than 50%, the institution must~~
20 ~~subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is no~~
21 ~~less than 2 percentage points greater than its immediately~~
22 ~~preceding 4-year completion rate until a 50% 4-year completion rate~~
23 ~~is attained; and then must subsequently achieve each year a 4-year~~
24 ~~completion rate that is greater, by no specific measure, than its~~
25 ~~immediately preceding 4-year completion rate until a 75% 4-year~~
26 ~~completion rate is attained.~~

27 ~~(C) For an institution with a 4-year adult completion rate~~
28 ~~baseline as provided by the center under subparagraph (i) equal to~~
29 ~~or greater than 50% and less than 75%, the institution must~~

1 ~~subsequently achieve each year a 4-year completion rate that is~~
 2 ~~greater, by no specific measure, than its immediately preceding 4-~~
 3 ~~year completion rate until a 75% 4-year completion rate is~~
 4 ~~attained.~~

5 ~~(iii) An institution that fails to achieve its annual~~
 6 ~~completion gain target under subparagraph (ii) is placed on~~
 7 ~~probationary status. If it meets its annual completion gain target~~
 8 ~~the subsequent year, it is returned to full program standing~~
 9 ~~status.~~

10 ~~(iv) An institution that fails to meet its annual completion-~~
 11 ~~gain target for 2 consecutive years is placed on low-performing~~
 12 ~~status with the following consequences:~~

13 ~~(iii) (A) In~~ **The department shall annually assess each eligible**
 14 **institution's reconnect metrics, including enrollment, credit**
 15 **accumulation, gateway course success, credit completion, and**
 16 **credentials earned. For an institution with metrics that do not**
 17 **demonstrate improvement from the prior year, the department may, in**
 18 **a time and manner prescribed by the department, require the**
 19 **institution shall to** develop a corrective action plan in
 20 consultation with the department's Office of Sixty by 30 or its
 21 successor, the Michigan Community College Association, and, subject
 22 to section 5a, the Michigan Center for Adult College Success, and
 23 the institution shall submit its corrective action plan to the
 24 Office of Sixty by 30 or its successor for approval.

25 ~~(B) In the first year after an institution is placed on low-~~
 26 ~~performing status and each succeeding year in which the institution~~
 27 ~~fails to meet its completion target, this state will reimburse the~~
 28 ~~institution only 90% of the last-dollar tuition cost of each~~
 29 ~~Michigan reconnect grant student, the institution being required to~~

1 ~~pay the remaining 10% of last-dollar tuition cost out of other~~
2 ~~institution revenues in order to remain eligible for participation~~
3 ~~in the Michigan reconnect program. An institution on low-performing~~
4 ~~status shall not charge Michigan reconnect grant students for the~~
5 ~~gap between tuition cost and reduced state reimbursement.~~

6 ~~(C) In the year immediately following an institution placed on~~
7 ~~low-performing status achieving its annual completion-rate target,~~
8 ~~that institution must be returned to full program standing status~~
9 ~~and receive a 100% state reimbursement for the cost of last-dollar~~
10 ~~tuition grants to Michigan reconnect grant students.~~

11 (l) By not later than June 1 each year, beginning in 2021,
12 provide a written report detailing the progress of the Michigan
13 reconnect grant program to the chairpersons of the standing
14 committees and the appropriations subcommittees of the house of
15 representatives and senate having jurisdiction over legislation or
16 oversight of appropriations pertaining to workforce development **and**
17 **higher education**. The report must be made available to the public
18 on the department's website and, at minimum, must include all of
19 the following information for the immediately preceding academic
20 year:

21 (i) The total amount of Michigan reconnect grants awarded to
22 Michigan reconnect grant students.

23 (ii) The total amount of funding used for oversight and
24 implementation of the Michigan reconnect grant program, including,
25 but not limited to, total funding used for each of the following:

26 (A) Full-time equated positions.

27 (B) System improvements.

28 (C) Training costs.

29 (iii) The total amount of funding used for program support

1 services, including, but not limited to, total funding used for
2 each of the following:

3 (A) Full-time equated positions.

4 (B) Case management.

5 (C) Technical assistance.

6 (iv) The total amount of funding used for marketing.

7 (v) The total number of navigators employed by the department;
8 the total number of navigators assigned to each eligible
9 institution; and the number of Michigan reconnect grant students
10 assigned to each navigator, organized by eligible institution.

11 (vi) The total number of eligible institutions to which
12 Michigan reconnect grants were paid for credit to student accounts
13 under section 17 of the Michigan reconnect grant recipient act,
14 2020 PA 68, MCL 390.1717; a list of the names of those eligible
15 institutions; and the total number and amount of Michigan reconnect
16 grants that were awarded, organized by eligible institution.

17 (vii) The amount of credit awarded for prior learning by
18 eligible institutions to be reimbursed at a rate of \$80.00 per
19 credit hour for credit awarded to Michigan reconnect grant students
20 for Advanced Placement, CLEP, DSST, military training, industry
21 credentials, work-based learning, portfolio assessment, and other
22 types of credit for prior learning as determined by the department.

23 (viii) The total number of individuals who applied for Michigan
24 reconnect grants; the total number of individuals awarded those
25 grants; the mean and median grant amounts; and the total number of
26 grant recipients who earned either an associate degree or industry-
27 recognized certificate or credential.

28 (ix) Any other relevant information, as determined by the
29 department.

1 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
2 unless Senate Bill No. 406 of the 102nd Legislature is enacted into
3 law.