

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS GRAY-
JACKSON AND JOHNSTON

Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel

For reading: February 3, 2009

CLERK'S OFFICE
AMENDED AND APPROVED
Date: 2-3-09

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR NO. 2009-20

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF
ACTION BY THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA TO
CREATE THE POSTSECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM INTRODUCED
IN SENATE BILL NO. 33 TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
BY ALASKA ACHIEVERS.**

WHEREAS, legislation to create the Alaska Achievers' Incentive Scholarship Program, with both merit and needs-based components, has been pre-filed for the 26th Legislature – First Session as Senate Bill No. 33 and House Bill No. 94, as attached; and

WHEREAS legislation supporting the Alaska Achievers' Incentive Scholarship Program was introduced in the 25th Legislature as HB 397 and HB 403; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Achievers' Incentive Scholarship Program will provide a state-funded scholarship program with both merit and needs-based components to enhance access to the University of Alaska postsecondary school system by academically successful students who also demonstrate financial need and wish to seek further education; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Achievers' Incentive Scholarship Program was designed through efforts of the Coalition of Student Leaders, a statewide organization of collegiate student governments, serving and representing over 30,000 students in the University of Alaska postsecondary school system; and

WHEREAS, SB No. 33 implementing the Alaska Achievers' Incentive Scholarship Program has the support of the University of Alaska Administration; and

WHEREAS, education is a core value to share throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly resolves as follows:

Section 1. The Anchorage Assembly applauds the program design and advocacy efforts of the Coalition of Student Leaders which have lead to the introduction of state legislation to create the Alaska Achievers' Incentive Scholarship Program.

Section 2. The Anchorage Assembly supports creation of the Alaska Achievers' Incentive Scholarship Program and the Alaska Achievers' Scholarship Fund to

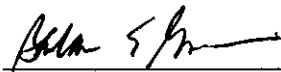
1 enhance access to the University of Alaska, with both merit and needs-based
2 components.

3
4 **Section 3.** The Anchorage Assembly encourages the 26th Alaska State Legislature
5 to create the postsecondary scholarship grant program introduced in Senate Bill No.
6 33 to enhance access to the University of Alaska by Alaska Achievers.

7
8 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 3rd day of
9 February 2009.

10
11 
12 Chair

13
14 ATTEST:

15 
16 _____
17 Municipal Clerk

SENATE BILL NO. 33

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR ELLIS

Introduced: 1/21/09

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act creating a postsecondary scholarship grant program for Alaska residents based**
2 **on high achievement and financial need."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature to

7 (1) reward eligible students who are admitted to a qualifying postsecondary
8 institution located in the state;

9 (2) recognize that existing scholarship programs in the state do not provide the
10 funding needed to support all students who are in financial need;

11 (3) establish the Alaska achievers' incentive scholarship program to provide an
12 additional source of financial assistance to defray the costs of attending a qualifying
13 postsecondary institution for academically successful students who also demonstrate financial
14 need and who wish to seek further education.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.43 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Article 6A. Alaska Achievers' Incentive Scholarship Program.

Sec. 14.43.190. Alaska achievers' incentive scholarship program; creation.

(a) There is created the Alaska achievers' incentive scholarship program to be administered by the commission for the benefit of eligible students who have been admitted to a qualifying postsecondary institution. A scholarship awarded under AS 14.43.190 - 14.43.199 may be used to defray the costs of attending a qualifying postsecondary institution.

(b) The amount of a scholarship shall be not less than \$1,000, determined annually by dividing the amount identified under AS 14.43.195(c) by the number of eligible applicants for the year. The commission may not award a scholarship to an eligible applicant for more than five years or for more than a cumulative amount of \$20,000.

(c) If the amount of money appropriated by the legislature for scholarships under this section is insufficient to award scholarships of at least \$1,000 to all applicants eligible under (b) of this section, the commission shall give priority to awards for applicants who demonstrate the greatest amount of unmet financial need.

(d) The commission shall adopt regulations to administer the program.

Sec. 14.43.193. Eligibility. A person may apply on a form provided by the commission for a scholarship award under AS 14.43.190. The commission shall approve an applicant under this section if the applicant is a resident of the state who

(1) demonstrates financial need on a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (20 U.S.C. 1090);

(2) demonstrates academic merit by submitting acceptable proof that the student has achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0, or the equivalent at the school in which the applicant is currently enrolled;

(3) has an unmet financial need that is not less than \$4,000;

(4) is a

(A) student who has been accepted to a degree or certificate program at a qualifying postsecondary institution; or

(B) continuing postsecondary student who is attending a

1 qualifying postsecondary institution for not less than half time and who is
 2 making satisfactory progress toward completion of a degree or certificate
 3 program.

4 **Sec. 14.43.195. Alaska achievers' scholarship fund.** (a) The Alaska
 5 achievers' scholarship fund is established as a separate endowment fund of the state.
 6 The fund consists of

- 7 (1) appropriations to the fund;
- 8 (2) donations to the fund; and
- 9 (3) income earned on investments of fund assets.

10 (b) The commissioner of revenue shall manage the fund as an endowment,
 11 with the goal that the purchasing power of the fund will not diminish over time
 12 without regard to additional contributions that may be made to the fund. The
 13 commissioner shall invest the assets of the fund in a manner likely to yield at least a
 14 five percent annual real rate of return over time. In carrying out the investment duties
 15 under this section, the commissioner of revenue has the powers and duties set out in
 16 AS 37.10.071. The commissioner shall provide reports to the commission on the
 17 condition and investment performance of the fund.

18 (c) As soon as practicable after May 1 of each year, the commissioner of
 19 revenue shall determine the average month-end market value of the fund for the
 20 immediately preceding three fiscal years. The commissioner shall identify five percent
 21 of that amount as available for appropriation by the legislature for scholarships under
 22 AS 14.43.190 for the following fiscal year.

23 (d) Money in the fund may be appropriated for scholarships under
 24 AS 14.43.190, for the cost of administering the Alaska achievers' scholarship program,
 25 or for any other public purpose. Nothing in this section creates a dedicated fund.

26 **Sec. 14.43.199. Definitions.** In AS 14.43.190 - 14.43.197,

27 (1) "commission" means the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary
 28 Education;

29 (2) "qualifying postsecondary institution" means a postsecondary
 30 school located in the state that is accredited by a national or regional accrediting body
 31 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation;

1 (3) "unmet financial need" means the amount of need demonstrated
2 under federal standards for determining financial need under 20 U.S.C. 1070c-2, as
3 amended.

4 * **Sec. 3.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
5 read:

6 ALASKA ACHIEVERS' SCHOLARSHIP FUND; TRANSITION. Notwithstanding
7 AS 14.43.195(c), added by sec. 2 of this Act, the commissioner of revenue shall determine the
8 amount available for appropriation for scholarships from the Alaska achievers' scholarship
9 fund as follows:

10 (1) as soon as practicable after the first appropriation is deposited into the
11 fund, the commissioner shall determine the first full month-end market value of the fund and
12 identify five percent of that amount available for the remainder of the fiscal year;

13 (2) as soon as practicable after May 1, 2009, the commissioner shall determine
14 the month-end market value of the fund and identify five percent of that amount as the
15 amount available for the following fiscal year; and

16 (3) as soon as practicable after May 1, 2010, the commissioner shall determine
17 the average month-end market value of the fund for the preceding fiscal year and identify five
18 percent of that amount as the amount available for the following fiscal year.

Content ID: 007348**Type:** AR_AllOther - All Other ResolutionsA RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT
OF ACTION BY THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF**Title:** ALASKA TO CREATE THE POSTSECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT
PROGRAM INTRODUCED IN SENATE BILL NO. 33 TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA BY ALASKA ACHIEVERS.**Author:** gray-jacksone**Initiating
Dept:** Assembly**Review
Depts:** Assembly**Date
Prepared:** 1/24/09 5:36 PM**Director
Name:** Harriet Drummond**Assembly
Meeting
Date:** 2/3/09

| Workflow Name | Action Date | Action | User | Security Group | Content ID |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Clerk_Admin_SubWorkflow | 1/24/09 5:38 PM | Exit | Elvi Gray-Jackson | Public | 007348 |
| AllOtherARWorkflow | 1/24/09 5:38 PM | Checkin | Elvi Gray-Jackson | Public | 007348 |

HOUSE BILL NO. 94

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GUTTENBERG, Kawasaki, Gara, Tuck, Gardner

Introduced: 1/28/09

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act creating a postsecondary scholarship program for Alaska residents based on**
2 **high achievement and financial need."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature to

7 (1) reward eligible students who are admitted to a qualifying postsecondary
8 institution located in the state;

9 (2) recognize that existing scholarship programs in the state do not provide the
10 funding needed to support all students who are in financial need;

11 (3) establish the Alaska achievers' incentive scholarship program to provide an
12 additional source of financial assistance to defray the costs of attending a qualifying
13 postsecondary institution for academically successful students who also demonstrate financial
14 need and who wish to seek further education.

1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.43 is amended by adding new sections to read:

2 **Article 6A. Alaska Achievers' Incentive Scholarship Program.**

3 **Sec. 14.43.190. Alaska achievers' incentive scholarship program; creation.**

4 (a) There is created the Alaska achievers' incentive scholarship program to be
5 administered by the commission for the benefit of eligible students who have been
6 admitted to a qualifying postsecondary institution. A scholarship awarded under
7 AS 14.43.190 - 14.43.199 may be used to defray the costs of attending a qualifying
8 postsecondary institution.

9 (b) The amount of a scholarship shall be not less than \$1,000, determined
10 annually by dividing the amount identified under AS 14.43.195(c) by the number of
11 eligible applicants for the year.

12 (c) If the amount of money appropriated by the legislature for scholarships
13 under this section is insufficient to award scholarships of at least \$1,000 to all
14 applicants eligible under (b) of this section, the commission shall give priority to
15 awards for applicants who demonstrate the greatest amount of unmet financial need.

16 (d) The commission shall adopt regulations needed to administer the program.

17 **Sec. 14.43.193. Eligibility.** A person may apply on a form provided by the
18 commission for a scholarship award under AS 14.43.190. The commission shall
19 approve an applicant under this section if the applicant is a resident of the state who

20 (1) demonstrates financial need on a Free Application for Federal
21 Student Aid (20 U.S.C. 1090);

22 (2) demonstrates academic merit by submitting acceptable proof that
23 the student has achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0, or the
24 equivalent at the school in which the applicant is currently enrolled;

25 (3) has an unmet financial need that is not less than \$4,000;

26 (4) is a

27 (A) student who has been accepted to a degree or certificate
28 program at a qualifying postsecondary institution; or

29 (B) continuing postsecondary student who is attending a
30 qualifying postsecondary institution for not less than half time and who is
31 making satisfactory progress toward completion of a degree or certificate

1 program.

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4 The fund consists of

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6 (2) donations to the fund; and

7 (3) income earned on investments of fund assets.

8 (b) The commissioner of revenue shall manage the fund as an endowment,
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10 without regard to additional contributions that may be made to the fund. The
11 commissioner shall invest the assets of the fund in a manner likely to yield at least a
12 five percent annual real rate of return over time. In carrying out the investment duties
13 under this section, the commissioner of revenue has the powers and duties set out in
14 AS 37.10.071. The commissioner shall provide reports to the commission on the
15 condition and investment performance of the fund.

16 (c) As soon as practicable after July 1 of each year, the commissioner of
17 revenue shall determine the average month-end market value of the fund for the
18 immediately preceding three fiscal years. The commissioner shall identify five percent
19 of that amount as available for appropriation by the legislature for scholarships under
20 AS 14.43.190 for the following fiscal year.

21 (d) Money in the fund may be appropriated for scholarships under
22 AS 14.43.190 or for any other public purpose. Nothing in this section creates a
23 dedicated fund.

24 **Sec. 14.43.199. Definitions.** In AS 14.43.190 - 14.43.197,

25 (1) "commission" means the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary
26 Education;

27 (2) "qualifying postsecondary institution" means a postsecondary
28 school located in the state that is accredited by a national or regional accrediting body
29 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation;

30 (3) "unmet financial need" means the amount of need demonstrated
31 under federal standards for determining financial need under 20 U.S.C. 1070c-2, as

1 amended.