



AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING THE MONTANA PARENTS AS SCHOLARS PROGRAM; CLARIFYING THE FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE PROGRAM; CLARIFYING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 53-4-209, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 53-4-209, MCA, is amended to read:

**"53-4-209. Montana parents as scholars program -- department duties.** (1) There is a Montana parents as scholars program administered by the department.

(2) The department shall:

(a) use state maintenance of effort funds or temporary assistance for needy families funds, ~~to the extent practicable,~~ in a program to provide public assistance ~~only~~ to eligible individuals households for the purpose of continuation of education leading toward a high school diploma, a general equivalency degree, vocational training, an associate's degree, or a baccalaureate degree;

~~(b) establish or coordinate a skills training center pilot program in coordination with the board of regents or a community college district to provide training to individuals identified as appropriate through an assessment process;~~

~~(c)(b)~~ allow an individual receiving public assistance from the program temporary assistance for needy families to attend an approved educational program if the individual:

~~(i) has completed an employee assessment conducted as provided by rule;~~

~~(ii)(i)~~ meets the income and resource eligibility requirements for temporary assistance for needy families;

and

~~(iii)(ii)~~ qualifies as a full-time student pursuant to subsection (4); and

~~(iv) completes a 180-hour work activity requirement in a 12-month period that may include work study, internships, or paid employment;~~

~~(d)(c)~~ limit approved educational programs to educational courses that are intended to promote economic

self-sufficiency, not to exceed the baccalaureate level, ~~or one vocational training program; and~~

~~(e) amend the state plan submitted to the United States department of health and human services to provide that the state elects, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(A)(ii), to define work as including all activities permitted under 42 U.S.C. 607 and satisfactory full-time school attendance.~~

~~(3) The department shall provide participants may apply for and may be eligible for child-care assistance provided by the department for dependent day care while the recipient is in a work activity to be paid from the temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds that are transferred to discretionary funding for child care.~~

~~(4) A program must require a recipient participant to be a full-time student, which means that a recipient participant:~~

~~(a) shall maintain enrollment in at least 12 credit hours each semester or 30 credit hours a year; or~~

~~(b) must be a full-time high school student, GED student, or vocational training student as defined by the institution in which the participant is enrolled;~~

~~(b)(c) shall maintain a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 grade point scale or be making satisfactory progress as defined by the institution in which the participant is enrolled; and~~

~~(c) shall cooperate with paternity and child support requirements;~~

~~(d) shall agree to relocate after graduation, if necessary, to seek employment in a job for which the education was intended; and~~

~~(e)(d) may not be allowed to remain in the program after receiving a baccalaureate degree.~~

~~(5) (a) There may be no more than 25 participants in the program at any one time.~~

~~(b) Temporary assistance for needy families participants within the 12-month period allowed by federal law do not count in the total number of participants in the parents as scholars program. However, the parents as scholars program may be used to extend a participant's education beyond the 12-month federal period.~~

~~(6) The department shall provide annual reports to the legislative finance committee and the children, families, health, and human services interim committee.~~"

**Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

**Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
SB 0385, originated in the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

SENATE BILL NO. 385

INTRODUCED BY M. CAFERRO

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