



# Senate Education Committee

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## SENATE BILL 329-SENATOR WARD

### **SYNOPSIS:**

Provides for a new scholarship program administered by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to help defray the cost of attending a state grant approved institution of higher learning that is domiciled and headquartered in the Commonwealth.

### **SUMMARY:**

Creates the Ready to Succeed Scholarship Act within PHEAA. Requires PHEAA to use funds appropriated from the General Fund and allows PHEAA to accept donations from all public and private sources, including the Federal government, to provide funding to eligible students.

Establishes eligibility criteria for the receipt of a scholarship, which, at a minimum, may require the following:

Total annual household income not in excess of \$110,000 adjusted upward annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index;

At least half-time enrollment in an approved course of study;

Demonstration of outstanding academic achievement; and

Compliance with all aspects of the State Grant Program except financial need.

Specifies that a student may be eligible for a grant award if the award amount in combination with a state grant award does not exceed an annually established maximum award amount.

Provides PHEAA with sole discretion to make all scholarship awards.

Effective Date: Immediately

### **BILL HISTORY:**

This bill is the same as SB 1361 of last session which passed the Senate 10/8/14 (50-0). Additionally, similar language provided for the implementation of the program for Fiscal Year 2014-15 in Act 126 of 2014. \$5,000,000 was included in the General Appropriations Act.