



# Senate Education Committee

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## **SENATE BILL 1356-SENATOR GREENLEAF**

### **SYNOPSIS:**

Expands the PHEAA State Grant Program to offer grants to PA students who attend institutions within the Commonwealth, regardless of the course delivery mode.

### **SUMMARY:**

Amends the Higher Education Scholarship Law to expand the State Grant Program to offer grants to PA students who attend institutions within the Commonwealth, regardless of the course delivery mode.

If the institution is headquartered and domiciled in the Commonwealth, the scholarship recipient shall be eligible for the scholarship regardless of whether the program of study is 100% online or blended with classroom credits, provided that the recipient meets all other eligibility requirements.

If the institution has a physical location in the Commonwealth but is not headquartered or domiciled in the Commonwealth, the scholarship recipient shall be eligible for a scholarship award provided that the recipient's program of study is not structured to be more than 50% online or the scholarship recipient's online enrollment in a given term does not exceed 50% of the total credits, provided that the recipient is enrolled at the institution's physical location in the Commonwealth and that the recipient meets all other eligibility requirements.

Requires that the change shall apply no later than the 2018-2019 award year as determined by PHEAA.

Effective Date: Immediately

### **BILL HISTORY:**

Act 59 of 2013 created the State Grant Distance Education Pilot program. This five-year pilot provides state PHEAA grants to students enrolling on-line. The pilot will end in the 2017-2018 award year. The program has been well received by students and institutions that have benefited from participation.

Prepared by: Phenicie 9/23/2016