

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)**  
**LB1270**

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**Hearing Date:** Monday February 05, 2024  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Murman  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to the Door to College Scholarship Act

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Albrecht, Conrad, Linehan, Meyer, Murman, Sanders, Walz, Wayne  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Dave Murman  
Mike Baumgartner  
  
Spike Eickholt  
Elizabeth Eynon-Kokrader

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary  
Education  
Voices for Children  
Education Rights Counsel

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Bill Summary:  
Notable Changes:

LB 1270 authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to verify the applicant's name and previous status at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education for purposes of the Door to College Scholarship Program.

The bill also provides that eligible postsecondary institutions shall not be responsible for determining if a student graduated high school from an accredited program at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center or graduated from an approved or accredited public, private, denominational, or parochial school after being discharged from a youth rehabilitation and treatment center. The bill strikes a one-year limitation on graduating from an accredited program



and receiving an award under the program.

General Summary of the Bill:

Eligible postsecondary educational institutions, acting as agents of the commission through the Door to College Scholarship Act, handle scholarship applications, assess student eligibility, and submit award recommendations, excluding certain criteria, to the commission by the application deadline.

Importantly, the awarded scholarship should not reduce other institutional aid for eligible students.

Within thirty days of receiving recommendations, the commission reviews them for compliance and notifies institutions of award approval or disapproval.

Notably, student application submission authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to verify eligibility. The commission distributes approved funds to institutions, which then directly disburse awards to eligible students during the award year.

Section-by-Section Summary:

SECTION 1 – DEFINITIONS

Award

Award Year

Commission

Educational Expenses

Eligible Postsecondary Educational Institution

Eligible Student – drops the ‘within one year’ language from the definition

Full-time Status

Part-time Status

Undergraduate Student

SECTION 2

Eligible postsecondary educational institutions, acting as agents of the commission under the Door to College Scholarship Act, are tasked with receiving and processing scholarship applications, determining student eligibility based on specified criteria (excluding certain criteria related to another section), and submitting award recommendations, including student details, to the commission by the application deadline.

Additionally, the scholarship awarded should not be used by institutions to decrease institutional scholarships, grants, or tuition/fee waivers that eligible students would otherwise qualify for in the absence of the Door to College Scholarship.

SECTION 3

Within thirty days of receiving recommendations under section 85-3204, the commission is required to review the suggested awards for compliance with the Door to College Scholarship Act and relevant regulations. The commission will then notify each eligible postsecondary educational institution of the approval or disapproval of the recommended awards.

Notably, the submission of a scholarship application by a student under the Door to College Scholarship Act authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to verify the applicant's name and previous status at a youth rehabilitation and treatment center for determining eligibility.

The commission will distribute the approved total award amount to each eligible institution, which will act as an agent to directly disburse the awards to eligible students during the award year.



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Dave Murman, Chairperson

