

# HB271 INTRODUCED



1 HB271  
2 J5KQFNN-1  
3 By Representative Collins  
4 RFD: Ways and Means Education  
5 First Read: 13-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the ReEngage Alabama Grant Program administered by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education provides grant award payments to adult learners pursuing a first associate or baccalaureate degree to assist them in earning short-term credentials.

This bill would decrease the minimum age of an adult learner from 25 to 22 years of age and older.

This bill would also include as an eligible student an individual who, in addition to other specific criteria, has not previously received a grant award and is pursuing a first baccalaureate degree following a two-year stop-out period after receiving his or her first associate degree.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the ReEngage Alabama Grant Program; to amend Sections 16-33D-3 and 16-33D-6, Code of Alabama 1975, to decrease the minimum age of an adult learner from 25 to 22 years of age and



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29 older; and to provide further for the definition of an  
30 eligible student.

31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

32 Section 1. Sections 16-33D-3 and 16-33D-6 of the Code  
33 of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

34 "§16-33D-3

35 For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms  
36 have the following meanings:

37 (1) ACADEMIC TERM. A portion of an academic year, such  
38 as a quarter or semester, during which an institution of  
39 higher education holds classes including, but not limited to,  
40 Fall, Winter, Spring, or Summer semesters.

41 (2) ADULT LEARNER. An individual who is ~~25~~ 22 years of  
42 age or older and returning to college.

43 (3) ALABAMA RESIDENT. An individual who has been  
44 classified as an in-state resident by an authorized  
45 institution, who has established residency within this state  
46 for at least a 12-month period prior to the beginning of the  
47 term for which financial assistance is requested, and who is  
48 in this state for other than a temporary purpose.

49 (4) APPROVED INSTITUTION. A state-supported institution  
50 of higher education or a private nonprofit institution of  
51 higher education that satisfies all of the following:

52 a. Is accredited by the Southern Association of  
53 Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, or the Council on  
54 Occupational Education.

55 b. Is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid  
56 program funds.



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57 c. Maintains its primary headquarters in Alabama.

58 (5) AUTHORIZED INSTITUTION. An approved institution  
59 that files a signed agreement with the commission to comply  
60 with all rules and procedures of the ReEngage Alabama Grant  
61 Program as provided by the commission.

62 (6) COMMISSION. The Alabama Commission on Higher  
63 Education.

64 (7) CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT. When an adult learner is  
65 making academic progress toward degree completion without a  
66 stop-out in enrollment of more than one consecutive semester  
67 or quarter, such as Fall/Winter to Spring, Spring to  
68 Summer/Fall, or Summer to Fall.

69 (8) ELIGIBLE PROGRAM. A nonsectarian, secular  
70 educational program that is aligned with Alabama's high demand  
71 workforce needs adopted by the Alabama Committee on  
72 Credentialing and Career Pathways.

73 (9) ELIGIBLE STUDENT. An individual who completed the  
74 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), who is in  
75 pursuit of his or her first associate or first baccalaureate  
76 degree, or who is in pursuit of his or her first baccalaureate  
77 degree following a two-year stop-out period after receiving  
78 his or her first associate degree and who did not previously  
79 receive a grant award, who satisfies the criteria set out in  
80 this chapter, and who is found to be eligible by rules adopted  
81 by the commission.

82 (10) GRANT. A financial award by the State of Alabama  
83 to defray the cost of tuition and mandatory fees to an  
84 eligible adult learner who is currently enrolled in an



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85 authorized institution.

86 (11) PROGRAM. The ReEngage Alabama Grant Program  
87 created by this chapter.

88 (12) YEAR. An academic year that shall be divided into  
89 Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer terms. The term does not mean  
90 calendar or fiscal year.

91 "§16-33D-6

92 (a) The program shall be used to provide grant award  
93 payments for eligible adult learners up to the maximum award  
94 amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for universities and  
95 one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for community  
96 colleges per academic semester for a full-time student.  
97 Proportional awards shall be given for students taking six to  
98 11 hours and students enrolled in less common academic terms,  
99 such as quarters, Summer terms, and intersessions.

100 (b) Each grant shall be renewable for the number of  
101 terms normally required by the institution for the course of  
102 study in which the adult learner is enrolled as long as the  
103 student is continuously enrolled until the student receives ~~an~~  
104 his or her first associate degree or ~~a~~ his or her first  
105 baccalaureate degree or his or her first baccalaureate degree  
106 following a two-year stop-out period after receiving his or  
107 her first associate degree and did not previously receive a  
108 ReEngage grant award. The commission shall grant a renewal  
109 upon verification that the student remains an eligible  
110 student.

111 (c) Grant award payments shall be distributed directly  
112 to the approved institution on behalf of the student during



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113 the applicable year.

114 (d) The requirements of this chapter are contingent  
115 upon available funding for the program.

116 (e) The commission shall determine the necessary  
117 procedures for awarding grant award payments if the number of  
118 eligible applicants and recipients exceeds available funding.

119 (f) Any funds appropriated to the program shall be  
120 nonreverting.

121 (g) A percentage of the grant program's appropriations  
122 may be expended for the operation and maintenance of the  
123 program.

124 (h) Each authorized institution that enrolls an adult  
125 learner who is eligible for the tuition and mandatory fees  
126 benefits provided by this program shall take necessary action  
127 to ensure that the student is aware of all other benefits that  
128 he or she may be entitled to under any other federal and state  
129 educational benefits, and any student grant or scholarship. In  
130 order to receive the benefits provided by this program, the  
131 student shall take the necessary steps to utilize all of the  
132 above benefits."

133 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
134 1, 2025.