

# SENATE BILL NO. 406

June 22, 2023, Introduced by Senators ANTHONY and CAVANAGH and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to amend 2020 PA 68, entitled "Michigan reconnect grant recipient act," by amending sections 11, 15, and 21 (MCL 390.1711, 390.1715, and 390.1721), as amended by 2022 PA 252.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 11. (1) This act may be cited as the "Michigan reconnect  
2 grant recipient act".

3           (2) The reconnect initiative and the reconnect program created  
4 respectively in this act and the Michigan reconnect grant act, 2020

1 PA 84, MCL 390.1701 to 390.1709, are intended to provide last-  
 2 dollar financial assistance to individuals **who, subject to sections**  
 3 **15(a) and 21(1)(e)(ii)(A), are** age ~~25~~**21** and older ~~seeking~~**and seek**  
 4 associate degrees or industry-recognized certificates or  
 5 credentials; to provide those individuals with greater access to  
 6 the education and skills needed to succeed in, and meet the demands  
 7 of, an evolving economy in which there is continuing demand for a  
 8 talented local workforce; to drive innovations specific to adult  
 9 learners in this state's community colleges; to mitigate  
 10 educational equity gaps in the furtherance of individual  
 11 prosperity; and to achieve the goal of increasing the number of  
 12 residents ages 25 to 64 with a college degree or skill certificate  
 13 or credential to 60% by 2030.

14 Sec. 15. To establish initial eligibility for a Michigan  
 15 reconnect grant, an individual must meet all of the following  
 16 conditions by the date of ~~his or her~~**the individual's** enrollment  
 17 described in subdivision (d):

18 (a) Be at least 25 years old. **If sufficient funds are**  
 19 **appropriated to expand the reconnect program, this minimum-age**  
 20 **criterion may be reduced to as low as 21.**

21 (b) Be a resident of this state for at least the immediately  
 22 preceding year.

23 (c) Have graduated from high school with a diploma or  
 24 certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency  
 25 certificate. As used in this subdivision, "high school equivalency  
 26 certificate" means that term as defined in section 4 of the school  
 27 aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1604.

28 (d) Be admitted to, and enrolled in, a Pell-eligible program  
 29 at an eligible institution leading to an associate degree or

1 industry-recognized certificate or credential.

2 (e) Not have previously earned an associate or baccalaureate  
3 degree.

4 (f) Timely complete a Michigan reconnect grant application in  
5 a form and manner determined by the department.

6 (g) Timely file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
7 for the enrollment period described in subdivision (d).

8 (h) Timely apply for all available gift aid for the enrollment  
9 period described in subdivision (d).

10 Sec. 21. (1) The reconnect short-term training program is  
11 created in the department for the purpose of providing skills  
12 scholarships to individuals eligible for those scholarships under  
13 this section. The department shall do all of the following:

14 (a) Develop and implement a process by which those seeking to  
15 participate in the reconnect short-term training program as a  
16 training institution offering qualified occupational training  
17 programs must apply to the department.

18 (b) Approve as a qualified occupational training program a  
19 program for which an application is submitted under subdivision (a)  
20 that meets all of the criteria in section 13(i), and post these  
21 criteria to the department's website.

22 (c) Require that training institutions accepted to participate  
23 in the reconnect short-term training program comply with data  
24 requests from the department as a condition to continued  
25 participation. For purposes of this subdivision, the department  
26 shall require institutions operating apprenticeship programs  
27 subject to this act to provide data that tracks relevant work  
28 experience required to verify a student's status as an apprentice.

29 (d) Maintain on its website a list of all qualified

1 occupational training program options available to potential skills  
2 scholarship recipients.

3 (e) Award skills scholarships, subject to all of the  
4 following:

5 (i) A skills scholarship is a 1-time grant not to exceed  
6 \$1,500.00 to contribute to tuition costs for a qualified  
7 occupational training program at a training institution, both of  
8 which are approved under this section, for a training program  
9 participant who meets the requirements of subparagraph (ii). A  
10 skills scholarship must not exceed the full amount of the tuition  
11 charged for the training program.

12 (ii) To receive the skills scholarship described in  
13 subparagraph (i), a qualified occupational training program  
14 participant must meet all of the following:

15 (A) Be at least 25 years old. **If sufficient funds are**  
16 **appropriated to expand the reconnect program, this minimum-age**  
17 **criterion may be reduced to as low as 21.**

18 (B) Be a resident of this state for at least the immediately  
19 preceding year.

20 (C) Have graduated from high school with a diploma or  
21 certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency  
22 certificate. As used in this sub-subparagraph, "high school  
23 equivalency certificate" means that term as defined in section 4 of  
24 the school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1604.

25 (D) Not have previously earned an associate or baccalaureate  
26 degree.

27 (E) Timely complete a reconnect short-term training program  
28 scholarship application in a form and manner determined by the  
29 department.

1           (iii) The department may award skills scholarships under this  
2 section only until money appropriated to the reconnect short-term  
3 training program has been fully committed.

4           (f) Inform each recipient of a skills scholarship that ~~he or~~  
5 ~~she~~ **the recipient** will remain eligible for the Michigan reconnect  
6 grant program to pursue an associate degree or occupational  
7 certificate upon completion of a qualified occupational training  
8 program at a training institution, and that community colleges will  
9 work to convert the coursework completed at that training  
10 institution into community college credit wherever possible.

11           (2) Except as otherwise provided under subsection (3), the  
12 department shall promulgate rules to implement subsection (1) (a),  
13 (b), and (c) only, pursuant to the administrative procedures act of  
14 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, subject to all of the  
15 following:

16           (a) Under subsection (1) (a), the department is limited to  
17 developing the form for the application described in subsection  
18 (1) (a) and prescribing the time and manner of its completion.

19           (b) Under subsection (1) (b), the department is limited to  
20 applying the eligibility criteria described in subsection (1) (b)  
21 and shall not apply any other eligibility criteria.

22           (c) Under subsection (1) (c), the department is limited to  
23 requiring compliance with data requests as described in subsection  
24 (1) (c).

25           (3) To facilitate implementation of the Michigan reconnect  
26 grant program prior to final rules being adopted, the department  
27 may develop and administer the reconnect short-term training  
28 program in accordance with its proposed rules or other policy or  
29 directive of the department established pursuant to this act.

1           Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect  
2 unless Senate Bill No. 407 of the 102nd Legislature is enacted into  
3 law.