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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2002

ENROLLED

House Bill No. 4534

(By Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kiss, and Delegate Trump)
[By Request of the Executive]

Passed March 9, 2002

In Effect from Passage

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E N R O L L E D

H. B. 4534

(BY MR. SPEAKER, MR. KISS, AND DELEGATE TRUMP)
[BY REQUEST OF THE EXECUTIVE]

[Passed March 9, 2002; in effect from passage.]

AN ACT to amend chapter eighteen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated article eight, relating to higher education; student financial aid; creating the West Virginia financial aid coordinating council; membership; responsibility; meetings; recommendations; reports; and termination of council.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That chapter eighteen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated article eight, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 8. WEST VIRGINIA FINANCIAL AID COORDINATING COUNCIL.

§18C-8-1. West Virginia financial aid coordinating council.

- 1 (a) The West Virginia financial aid coordinating council is
- 2 hereby created. The council is established for the purpose of

3 examining and recommending strategies for maximizing
4 coordination among the various sources of student financial aid.

5 (b) The council is responsible for examining financial aid
6 issues which include at least the following:

7 (1) A manner for administering and maintaining the most
8 efficient, simplified and coordinated application process. This
9 includes implementing the optimum use of technology in the
10 application process.

11 The council shall explore the feasibility of developing a
12 single form for completing the application process;

13 (2) A strategy for ensuring that a reasonable balance of
14 need-based, merit-based and self-help financial assistance is
15 available to West Virginia students;

16 (3) An integrated and well coordinated system for making
17 financial aid awards on a timely basis;

18 (4) A comprehensive informational and marketing plan that
19 delivers to middle school through high school students and the
20 public an awareness of the various financial aid resources;

21 (5) An articulation plan between secondary and
22 postsecondary education regarding delivery and availability of
23 student financial aid, including dual credit course offerings for
24 secondary students free of charge;

25 (6) A strategy for working with and informing high school
26 guidance counselors in implementing effective strategies for
27 assisting students in completing the financial aid application
28 process; and

29 (7) A strategy for implementing a system of student
30 identification numbers that is both compatible and uniform to

31 be used by public schools and public institutions of higher
32 education.

33 (c) The council shall take actions including, but not limited
34 to, the following:

35 (1) Make recommendations with respect to coordinating the
36 application for and disbursement of funds from all sources of a
37 student's financial aid package, and for maximizing the level of
38 funding derived from federal sources;

39 (2) Identify and examine all sources of student financial
40 aid, and recommend the most effective manner for coordinating
41 all financial aid resources. The sources include, but are not
42 limited to the following:

43 (A) PROMISE scholarship program;

44 (B) Higher education grant program;

45 (C) Higher education adult part-time student grant program;

46 (D) Prepaid tuition trust and savings programs;

47 (E) Underwood-Smith teacher scholarship program;

48 (F) Health sciences scholarship program,

49 (G) West Virginia engineering, science and technology
50 scholarship program;

51 (H) Federal PELL grant program;

52 (I) Federal student loans;

53 (J) Work/study programs;

54 (K) Tuition waivers; and

55 (L) Privately funded scholarships;

56 (3) In consultation with the higher education policy
57 commission, recommend funding levels for each state grant and
58 scholarship program;

59 (4) Utilize the resources of national or regional education
60 organizations such as, but not limited to, the southern regional
61 education board, education commission of the states and
62 national association of student financial aid administrators; and

63 (5) Meet at any time that the council determines appropri-
64 ate.

**§18C-8-2. Council membership; council chair; compensation of
members; establishing quorum.**

1 (a) The council is composed of seventeen members as
2 follows:

3 (1) Chancellor for higher education, or designee;

4 (2) State superintendent of schools, or designee;

5 (3) Secretary of education and the arts, or designee;

6 (4) State treasurer, or designee;

7 (5) Vice chancellor for administration for the higher
8 education policy commission;

9 (6) Director for student and educational services for the
10 higher education policy commission;

11 (7) Assistant state superintendent for technical and adult
12 education services, or designee;

13 (8) Executive director of the PROMISE scholarship
14 program;

15 (9) Director of American education services-West Virginia;

16 (10) Representative of proprietary institutions selected by
17 the West Virginia association of independent colleges and
18 schools;

19 (11) Representative of independent institutions selected by
20 the West Virginia independent colleges and universities, inc.;

21 (12) President of the West Virginia association of student
22 financial aid administrators;

23 (13) President of the West Virginia counselors association,
24 or designee;

25 (14) Two representatives of state institutions of higher
26 education appointed by the policy commission, one of whom
27 represents community and technical college education; and

28 (15) Two members appointed by the governor who are
29 knowledgeable about and representative of the interests of
30 student financial aid applicants.

31 (b) The secretary of education and the arts or his or her
32 designee is chair of the council.

33 (c) Members serve without compensation, but are reim-
34 bursed for expenses, including travel expenses, actually
35 incurred by the member in the official conduct of business at
36 the same rate as is paid to state employees. Any members
37 employed by a government agency shall be reimbursed by his
38 or her employer; all other members shall be reimbursed by the
39 office of the secretary of education and the arts. A majority of

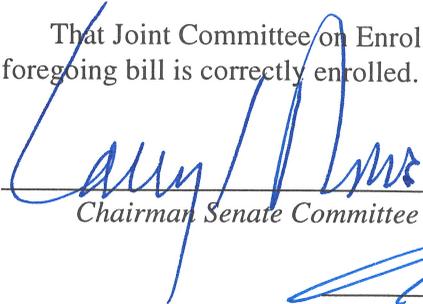
40 council members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of
41 business.

§18C-8-3. Reports; termination of council.

1 (a) The council shall make a preliminary report of its
2 recommendations on or before the first day of December, two
3 thousand two. If the council is able to finish its work and make
4 a final report on this date, it shall cease to exist on the first day
5 of April, two thousand three. If the council finds that it can not
6 complete its work on or before the first day of December, two
7 thousand two, the council may vote to continue its work and
8 issue a final report on the first day of December, two thousand
9 three, in which case, the council shall cease to exist on the first
10 day of April, two thousand four.

11 (b) The council shall provide copies of its reports to the
12 Governor; President of the Senate; Speaker of the House of
13 Delegates; chairs of the Senate and House finance committees;
14 legislative oversight commission on education accountability;
15 higher education policy commission; and state board of
16 education.

That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

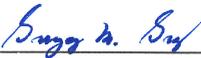

Chairman Senate Committee

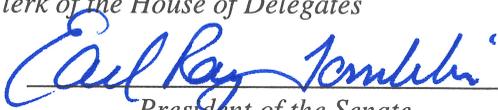

Chairman House Committee

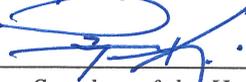
Originating in the House.

In effect from passage.


Clerk of the Senate


Clerk of the House of Delegates


President of the Senate


Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 2nd
day of April, 2002.


Governor

DATE

3/27/02

TIME 10:20a