



2020 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 167

Introduced by: **Senator Bolin**

1 **An Act to revise a provision regarding eligibility for the South Dakota opportunity**
 2 **scholarship.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1.** That § 13-55-31 be AMENDED:

5 **13-55-31. Eligibility requirements for opportunity scholarship.**

6 In order to be eligible for a South Dakota opportunity scholarship award, a student
 7 shall:

- 8 (1) Be a resident of South Dakota at the time of graduation from high school;
- 9 (2) Have a composite score or superscore of 24, or higher, on the test administered by
 10 the American College Testing Program or an equivalent score as determined by the
 11 Board of Regents on the Scholastic Assessment Test. The student shall take the
 12 ACT or SAT test before beginning postsecondary education;
- 13 (3) Meet the high school course requirements for graduation as provided in § 13-55-
 14 31.1;
- 15 (4) Attend a university, college, or technical school that is accredited by the North
 16 Central Association of Colleges and Schools and that provides instruction from a
 17 campus located in South Dakota; and
- 18 (5) Enter into the program within five years of graduation from high school or within
 19 one year of the student's release from active duty with an active component of the
 20 armed forces if the release is within five years of the student's graduation from high
 21 school. If a student attends full-time a regionally accredited university, college, or
 22 technical school located outside South Dakota and within two years following high
 23 school graduation or within two years following release from active military service
 24 returns to the state to attend full-time a regionally accredited university, college,
 25 or technical school, the student is eligible to receive a partial award.

1 A student is eligible to participate in the South Dakota opportunity scholarship program
2 for the equivalent of four academic years (eight consecutive spring and fall terms) or until
3 the attainment of a baccalaureate degree, whichever comes first. However, the executive
4 director of the Board of Regents may grant exceptions to the continuous enrollment
5 requirements for good cause shown.

6 A student who would have been eligible for the scholarship, but who applies after
7 completing one or more semesters of full-time work at an accredited institution, may be
8 admitted to the program only if the student has complied with the same grade point and
9 credit hour requirements that would apply to program participants. Admission granted
10 under these circumstances may not be retroactive, and eligibility for participation in the
11 program shall be reduced by one semester for each semester of work completed prior to
12 admission to the program.