

**AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS IN CRISIS AT PUBLIC  
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) (a) A public institution of  
2 higher education may establish a program to provide an emergency  
3 expense grant to a student who experiences an unexpected financial  
4 hardship that impedes such student's ability to complete his or her  
5 degree. Such financial hardship may include, but need not be limited  
6 to, expenses relating to childcare, medical care or transportation  
7 expenses.

8 (b) Any student who is enrolled at a public institution of higher  
9 education that has established an emergency expense program under  
10 this section may receive an emergency expense grant through  
11 application to the institution or nomination by an employee of the  
12 institution. An application or nomination for an emergency expense  
13 grant shall include (1) an explanation of the student's financial  
14 hardship, (2) documentation substantiating the student's emergency  
15 expenses, and (3) any other information the institution may require.

16 (c) Upon receipt of an application made by a student or a  
17 nomination made by an employee pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
18 section, the public institution of higher education may award an  
19 emergency expense grant to a student upon determination that the  
20 financial hardship would impede the student's ability to complete his  
21 or her degree.

22 (d) For purposes of establishing an emergency expense program  
23 under this section, a public institution of higher education may (1)  
24 accept private donations, (2) allocate institutional funds, or (3) apply to  
25 the Office of Higher Education for a state matching grant, in  
26 accordance with the provisions of section 2 of this act.

27 (e) A public institution of higher education may apply to the Office  
28 of Higher Education, in the manner prescribed by said office, for a  
29 state matching grant to support the institution's emergency expense  
30 program. In order to receive a state matching grant pursuant to section  
31 2 of this act, a public institution of higher education shall maintain a  
32 separate nonlapsing emergency expense grant program account. The  
33 institution shall deposit into such account (1) all private donations  
34 accepted by the institution for the purpose of the emergency expense  
35 grant program, (2) all institutional funds allocated by the institution  
36 for the purpose of the emergency expense grant program, or (3) any  
37 state matching grant funds received pursuant to section 2 of this act.

38 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) (a) For purposes of an  
39 emergency expense grant program established pursuant to section 1 of  
40 this act, the Office of Higher Education shall, within available  
41 appropriations and upon receipt of an application, provide a state  
42 matching grant to any public institution of higher education. In any  
43 fiscal year, a state matching grant to a public institution of higher  
44 education shall be in an amount equal to the total funds deposited in  
45 such institution's emergency expense grant program account, as  
46 described in section 1 of this act, minus any funds remaining in such  
47 account from the prior fiscal year.

48 (b) In any fiscal year, the total amount of the state matching grants  
49 provided by the office under this section shall not exceed five hundred  
50 thousand dollars. If, in any fiscal year, the total amount sought in all  
51 state matching grant applications submitted by the public institutions  
52 of higher education exceeds the amount available to the Office of  
53 Higher Education for the purpose of the emergency expense grant  
54 programs, all such matching grants shall be reduced on a pro rata

55 basis.

56 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) A public institution of higher  
57 education that receives matching grants pursuant to section 2 of this  
58 act shall, on or before July 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, submit a  
59 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
60 statutes, to the Office of Higher Education and to the joint standing  
61 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
62 relating to higher education and employment advancement with  
63 information regarding (1) the number of emergency expense grant  
64 applications received and awarded, (2) the average and total dollar  
65 amounts of the emergency expense grants requested and awarded, (3)  
66 the purposes for which the emergency expense grants were requested,  
67 (4) the rates of graduation among recipients of the emergency expense  
68 grant and the general student body, and (5) such other information as  
69 the Office of Higher Education deems necessary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section