



H.B. 127
124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Willamowski, Calvert, Callender, Schaffer

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits the expenditure of public funds for the "postsecondary education" of a person serving a term of imprisonment or a delinquent child committed to the custody of the Department of Youth Services.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

Currently, the Department of Youth Services provides vocational education programs for the delinquent children who are committed to its custody. Since some of these children may have earned high school diplomas or high school equivalency diplomas either before or after their commitment to the Department, some of these vocational education programs may be postsecondary in nature.

The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction also offers vocational education programs for inmates, generally directed toward development of employment skills. The Department reports that 75% of the inmates have dropped out of high school, but some of the inmates do have diplomas or equivalency diplomas. Thus, some of the Department's vocational programs may be construed to be postsecondary in nature. The Department reports that all postsecondary programs are operated under contracts with Ohio colleges and universities.¹

On the other hand, the Board of Regents reports that it currently does not offer any assistance to imprisoned persons or DYS children. The statutes

¹ *The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has reported that the first year its "Post Secondary Education Program" was funded entirely by the Department was in 1998. Prior to that time, that program was funded through the Ohio Instructional Grants (which no longer may be awarded to any imprisoned persons) and federal Pell grants. The Department also operates its Industrial Training Program to provide on-the-job training in basic shop skills.*

pertaining to the Board's two major grant programs (the Ohio Instructional Grants and Student Choice Grants) specifically prohibit the awarding of grants to any person "serving a term of imprisonment."²

The bill

(R.C. 2151.361, 3333.121, and 5120.034)

The bill prohibits outright the Department of Youth Services, the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, and the Ohio Board of Regents from spending any public funds for the "postsecondary education" of persons who are imprisoned or of delinquent children who are committed to the custody of the Department of Youth Services. It does, however, except from this prohibition educational programs offered to persons who are incarcerated under the "shock incarceration" pilot program or at an "intensive program prison."³

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-22-01	p. 174

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² R.C. 3333.12 and 3333.27, neither section in the bill. The Ohio Instructional Grant (OIG) is available to Ohio residents enrolled in full-time two-year or four-year programs at state-assisted colleges or universities, private colleges or universities in the state, or schools registered by the State Board of Proprietary School Registration. Grant awards are generally based on whether a student is financially dependent or independent, family income, number of dependents, and which type of institution the student attends. Until 1997, imprisoned persons eligible for parole within five years were eligible for the OIG. The smaller Student Choice Grants are available to students enrolled in full-time bachelor's degree programs at private nonprofit higher education institutions in the state. In 1997, the current prohibition against awarding the Student Choice Grants to imprisoned persons was enacted. (Am. Sub. H.B. 215 of the 122nd General Assembly.)

³ R.C. 5120.031, 5120.032, and 5120.033, none in the bill. These programs are available to only certain offenders and include substantial educational components.