

# State of South Dakota

NINETIETH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2015

974W0505

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1172

Introduced by: Representatives Hawks, McCleerey, Rasmussen, Ring, Schoenfish, Soli, and Verchio and Senators Hunhoff (Bernie), Buhl O'Donnell, Parsley, and Peterson (Jim)

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to revise the eligibility requirements for the South Dakota  
2 opportunity scholarship to include certain students who reside in bordering states.

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

4 Section 1. That § 13-55-31 be amended to read as follows:

5 13-55-31. In order to be eligible for a South Dakota opportunity scholarship award, a student  
6 shall:

- 7 (1) Be a resident of South Dakota at the time of graduation from high school or be a  
8 graduate of a public high school in South Dakota who at the time of graduation  
9 resided in a bordering state that has an open enrollment or a tuition regulation  
10 agreement with the State of South Dakota pursuant to chapter 13-28A;
- 11 (2) Have a composite score of 24, or higher, on the test administered by the American  
12 College Testing Program or an equivalent score as determined by the Board of  
13 Regents on the Scholastic Assessment Test. The student shall take the ACT or SAT  
14 test before beginning postsecondary education;



- 1 (3) Meet the high school course requirements for graduation as provided in § 13-55-31.1;
- 2 (4) Attend a university, college, or technical school that is accredited by the North  
3 Central Association of Colleges and Schools and that provides instruction from a  
4 campus located in South Dakota; and
- 5 (5) Enter into the program within five years of graduation from high school or within one  
6 year of the student's release from active duty with an active component of the armed  
7 forces if the release is within five years of the student's graduation from high school.  
8 If a student attends full-time a regionally accredited university, college, or technical  
9 school located outside South Dakota and within two years following high school  
10 graduation or within two years following release from active military service returns  
11 to the state to attend full-time a regionally accredited university, college, or technical  
12 school, the student is eligible to receive a partial award.

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

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