

HB 1226 -- HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION PILOT PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Gray

This bill requires the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development to propose the creation of a pilot program called "Pay Forward, Pay Back" to replace the current system of charging students tuition and fees for enrollment at one or more public higher education institutions. The Department must submit a proposed program to the General Assembly by November 1, 2023.

The proposed program must allow a student who is a state resident as defined by the institution and who qualifies for admission to enroll without paying tuition or fees if he or she signs a binding contract to pay a percentage of his or her adjusted gross income to the state or the institution for a specified number of years after graduation. The pilot program must establish an immediate funding source for the first 15 to 20 years and include the establishment of a revolving fund to deposit payments made under the program. The pilot program may vary by institution based on the total cost of education at the institution, the portion of the cost that is paid by the state, the number of years specified in the contract, and the percentage of annual adjusted gross income specified in the contract.