

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
KEN HECHLER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #2

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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF A COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: Higher Education Policy Commission TITLE NUMBER: 133

RULE TYPE: Legislative CITE AUTHORITY: WV Code §18C-7-6

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: Series 7

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: West Virginia Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing
In-State Student Excellence (PROMISE) Scholarship Program

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON October 1 AT 10:00 AM ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Office of the Chancellor

Higher Education Policy Commission

1018 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, WV 25301

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.


Authorized Signature

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

\$5.00

**TITLE 133
LEGISLATIVE
WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION**

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SERIES 7

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

**TITLE: WEST VIRGINIA PROVIDING REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR
MAXIMIZING IN-STATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE (PROMISE)
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

SECTION 1: GENERAL

- 1.1. Scope - This rule establishes guidelines and procedures which will direct the operation of the West Virginia Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing In-State Student Excellence Scholarship Program, hereafter referred to as PROMISE.
- 1.2. Authority - West Virginia Code §18C-7-6
- 1.3. Filing Date -
- 1.4. Effective Date -

SECTION 2: PURPOSE

- 2.1. The intent of the legislation creating PROMISE is to:
 - 2.1.1. provide an incentive for all West Virginia students to perform at a high academic level;
 - 2.1.2. increase the college-going rate in West Virginia, and
 - 2.1.3. develop an educated work force that will attract high skill, high wage jobs for West Virginians.

SECTION 3: FUNDING

- 3.1. A special revenue fund known as the PROMISE Scholarship Fund shall be created in the State Treasury.
- 3.2. Funding shall consist of:
 - 3.2.1. All appropriations to the fund from the West Virginia lottery, video

lottery, taxes on amusement devices, and any other legislative appropriation;

3.2.2. All interest earned from the investment of the fund; and

3.2.3. Any gifts, grants, or contributions received by the fund.

SECTION 4: ADMINISTRATION

4.1. The PROMISE Scholarship Program shall operate under the direction of a PROMISE Scholarship Board.

4.1.1. The Board shall consist of fifteen members including:

4.1.1.1. The Chairperson of the Higher Education Policy Commission or his or her designee;

4.1.1.2. The Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission or his or her designee;

4.1.1.3. The State Superintendent of Schools or his or her designee;

4.1.1.4. The Secretary of Education and the Arts;

4.1.1.5. The State Treasurer or his or her designee;

4.1.1.6. Two members appointed by the Governor from a list of six persons nominated by the President of the Senate;

4.1.1.7. Two members appointed by the Governor from a list of six persons nominated by the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

4.1.1.8. Six at-large private sector members representative of the state's business and economic community who have knowledge, skill and experience in an academic, business or financial field.

4.1.1.8.1. The ten appointed members shall be residents of the state;

4.1.1.8.2. The ten appointed members shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate;

4.1.1.8.3. No more than six of the ten appointed members may be from the same political party;

- 4.1.1.8.4. No more than four of the ten appointed members may be from the same congressional district.
- 4.1.2. Appointed members shall serve a term of four years, except as set forth in 4.1.2.1, and may be reappointed at the expiration of their terms.
 - 4.1.2.1. Of the initial appointments, the Governor shall appoint three members to a one-year term, two members to a two-year term, three members to a three-year term and two members to a four-year term;
 - 4.1.2.2. An appointed member shall serve until a successor has been appointed.
 - 4.1.2.3. In the event of a vacancy among appointed members, the Governor shall appoint a person representing the same interests to fill the unexpired term;
 - 4.1.2.3.1 A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term and is eligible for reappointment.
- 4.1.3. The Secretary of the Education and the Arts shall serve as the Chairperson and presiding officer of the Board.
- 4.1.4. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation.
- 4.1.5. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
- 4.1.6. Members of the Board shall be reimbursed by the Office of the Secretary of Education and the Arts for expenses, including travel expenses incurred by them in the conduct of official business by the Board.
 - 4.1.6.1. Expenses shall be paid at the same rate as is paid to employees of the State.
- 4.1.7. Appointed Board members may be removed from office by the Governor for official misconduct, incompetence, neglect of duty, or gross immorality.
 - 4.1.7.1. Any such removal must be done in the manner prescribed by law for the removal by the Governor of state elective officers in accordance with West Virginia. Code §6-6-5.
- 4.2. The Board has the powers necessary or convenient to administer and carry out the

purpose of the PROMISE Scholarship Program including, but not limited to, the following:

- 4.2.1. To adopt and amend bylaws.
 - 4.2.1.1. To propose legislative rules for promulgation..
- 4.2.2. To invest funds with the West Virginia Investment Management Board in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §12-6-1 et seq.
 - 4.2.2.1. Any investment shall be made with the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.
 - 4.2.2.2. Fiduciaries shall diversify plan investments to the extent permitted by law so as to minimize the risk of large losses, unless under the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so.
- 4.2.3. To execute contracts and other necessary instruments;
- 4.2.4. To impose reasonable requirements for residency for students applying for a PROMISE Scholarship.
 - 4.2.4.1. Such requirements shall not, in any way, establish residency requirements for matriculation or fee payment purposes at state institutions of higher education.
- 4.2.5. To contract for necessary goods and services;
- 4.2.6. To employ necessary personnel and, when necessary, to engage the services of private persons for administrative and technical assistance;
- 4.2.7. To solicit and accept gifts, including bequests or other testamentary gifts made by will, trust or other disposition, grants, loans, and other aids from any source;
- 4.2.8. To participate in any other way in any federal, state, or local government programs in carrying out the purposes of the PROMISE Program;
- 4.2.9. To define the terms and conditions under which scholarships shall be awarded;
- 4.2.10. To establish additional objective standards the Board considers necessary

to promote academic excellence and to maintain the financial stability of the fund. The Board may, by administrative procedure, revise those objective standards on an annual basis;

4.2.10.1. When changes to the objective standards are made, provisions will be made for students already enrolled in the program.

4.2.11. To establish other policies, procedures, and criteria necessary to implement and administer the PROMISE Scholarship Program.

4.2.12. To expend the monies in the fund to provide awards and administer the PROMISE Scholarship Program.

SECTION 5: STUDENT CRITERIA

5.1. To be eligible for consideration for an initial PROMISE Scholarship, an applicant must be eligible for the award at the time of application and at the time the award is received. An applicant:

5.1.1. Must have completed the high school graduation requirements after September 1, 2001 or have earned a General Educational Development (GED) diploma as set forth in Section 5.2 or have been home-schooled as set forth in Section 5.3.;

5.1.1.1. Must have completed all of the credits required for graduation, one-half of which must have been completed in a public or private high school in this state or;

5.1.1.1.1. Must have been provided instruction in the home in West Virginia or other approved place in West Virginia under Exemption B, West Virginia Code §18-8-1, for the two years immediately preceding application.

5.1.1.2. Must apply within two years of his or her graduation from high school unless the applicant has entered the United States Armed Services within two years after he or she has graduated from high school.

5.1.1.3. A student who has served in the Armed Services is eligible to apply for a scholarship within seven years of the time he or she enters military service. However, once discharged from the military, the student is only eligible to apply for the initial award within one year of being discharged.

5.1.2. With zero to fifteen credits from an institution of higher education, excluding credits earned in advanced placement and dual credit courses while the student is enrolled in high school, the student must attain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 in the core courses *and* overall coursework required for graduation as required by the State Board of Education. The Board may establish, on an annual basis, core and eligibility requirements beyond those set by the State Board of Education for traditional college transfer students as well as occupational and vocational programs. The eligibility standards won't be less than a GPA of 3.0 in the core courses and a 3.0 overall.

5.1.2.1. Meet other criteria as established by the Board.

5.1.3. Must meet any additional objective standards the Board considers necessary to promote academic excellence and to maintain the financial stability of the fund.

5.1.4. Must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an eligible institution of higher education as set forth in Section 6 of this rule.

5.1.4.1. Must be a first-time freshman, full time student.

5.1.5. Must submit the application/needs analysis form used to apply for federal student aid programs and complete an application form designed and distributed by the Board.

5.1.6. Must be a state resident;

5.1.6.1. State resident means a student who has lived in West Virginia continuously for a minimum of twelve months immediately preceding the final date of application for a PROMISE scholarship or the renewal of a scholarship and meets the standards of West Virginia domicile as defined by the residency policies of the Higher Education Policy Commission.

5.1.7. Must be a United States citizen or a permanent resident thereof.

5.2. For a student who has earned a GED, to be eligible for consideration for an initial PROMISE award, he or she must have earned the GED after September 1, 2001 and:

5.2.1. Must pass the GED examination, with a minimum score as determined by the Board, within two years of the date his or her high school class would normally have graduated.

- 5.2.1.1. Meet other criteria as established by the Board.
- 5.2.2. Must apply for a PROMISE award within two years of attaining the GED unless the applicant has entered the United State Armed Services within two years after he or she attained the GED.
 - 5.2.2.1. A student who has served in the Armed Services is eligible to apply for a PROMISE award within seven years of the time he or she enters military service. However, once discharged from the military, the student is only eligible to apply for the initial award within one year from being discharged.
- 5.3. A student who has been home schooled must have earned the equivalent of a high school diploma after September 1, 2001 to be eligible for consideration for an initial PROMISE award.
 - 5.3.1. Must earn the GED after September 1, 2001, with a minimum score as set by the Board, within one year of the time of completion of instruction, but not later than twenty years of age;
 - 5.3.1.1. Meet other criteria, such as a minimum on a standardized test, as determined by the Board.
 - 5.3.2. Must have received home instruction for the two years immediately preceding application.
 - 5.3.3. Must apply for a PROMISE award within two years of attaining the GED unless the applicant has entered the United State Armed Services;
 - 5.3.3.1. A student who has served in the Armed Services is eligible to apply for a PROMISE award within seven years of the time he or she enters military service. However, once discharged from the military, the student is only eligible to apply for the initial award within one year from being discharged.
- 5.4. To be eligible for the renewal of a PROMISE Scholarship:
 - 5.4.1. The student will be subject to the eligibility requirements established by the Board at the time of the initial award;
 - 5.4.2. The Board will establish renewal eligibility requirements that reflect academic progress towards completion of a degree at the undergraduate education level.

- 5.4.3. The student must maintain appropriate academic progress toward the completion of a degree at the undergraduate education level as defined by the Board.
- 5.5. For degree seeking students, a full-time student is required to maintain PROMISE eligibility. If the student has maintained the eligibility requirements as set forth by the Board, the student may receive a PROMISE Scholarship equal to the length of the degree program.
 - 5.5.1. An eligible student seeking an associate degree may be eligible to receive a PROMISE Scholarship equal to the length of the two year degree program or Board approved three year associate degree program.
 - 5.5.2. An eligible student seeking a baccalaureate degree may be eligible to receive a PROMISE Scholarship equal to the length of the four year degree program.
 - 5.5.3. The Board may approve a PROMISE Scholarship for eligible students enrolled in a specific undergraduate degree program which is designated to be a five year program.
 - 5.5.4. The Scholarship renewal will be issued annually to eligible students.
- 5.6. The Board shall establish conditions for reapplication when a student is not continuously enrolled.

SECTION 6: ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

- 6.1. Institutions, as defined in West Virginia Code §18C-7-3 are eligible to participate in the PROMISE Scholarship Program and,
 - 6.1.2. Any other institution of higher education, public or private, approved by the PROMISE Board and the policy commission
- 6.2. Any institution that is not regionally accredited shall not be eligible to participate in the PROMISE Scholarship Program.

SECTION 7: AMOUNT OF AWARD

- 7.1. The award for a student enrolled in a public institution as defined in section 6.1.1. shall be based upon the actual tuition and fee charges. An award also may include

an allowance for books and supplies if approved by the Board..

7.1.1. "Tuition and fees" as established by the Higher Education Policy Commission, means the quarter, semester or term charges imposed by a state institution of higher education and all mandatory fees required as a condition of enrollment by all students.

7.2. Students enrolled in other eligible institutions shall receive an award based upon the average undergraduate tuition and fee charges at four-year state public college and universities as defined in section 6.1.1. for the previous year as determined by the Board. An award may also include an allowance for books and supplies.

7.3. The Board shall make the best use of the PROMISE Scholarship Program in conjunction with the West Virginia prepaid tuition trust program.

7.4. The Board shall:

7.4.1. Determine whether to require scholarship recipients to repay the amount of their scholarship, in whole or in part, if they choose to work outside the state after graduation;

7.4.2. Determine whether to set aside a portion of the scholarship funds for targeted scholarships for applicants accepted or enrolled in an engineering program, science program, technology program or other designated programs;

7.4.3. Determine what other sources of funding for higher education, if any, should be deducted from the PROMISE scholarship award;

7.4.4. Determine and clarify the relationship of PROMISE scholarship awards to all other aid a student may receive to provide maximum coordination. The determination shall consider:

7.4.4.1. Methods to maximize student eligibility for federal aid dollars;

7.4.4.2. A requirement that PROMISE scholarship awards not supplant tuition and fee waivers;

7.4.4.3. A clarification of the relationship between PROMISE scholarship program, tuition savings plans and other state student aid and loan programs.

7.4.5. Determine a method for the award of scholarships within the limit of available appropriations.

- 7.4.6. Determine a method for applicants to appeal determinations of eligibility and continuation.
- 7.5. The amount of a PROMISE scholarship awarded in combination with aid from all other sources shall not exceed the cost of the education at the institution the recipient is attending. This restriction does not apply to those members of the West Virginia National Guard, recipients of an Underwood-Smith teacher scholarship, and recipients of a West Virginia engineering, science and technology scholarship.
 - 7.5.1. Should the scholarship award plus the amount of other financial awards exceed the cost of attendance, the institution's financial aid officer, in consultation with the recipient, will determine what aid is to be reduced. This adjustment should be to the best advantage of the recipient.
- 7.6. Require that a scholarship will not pay an amount that exceeds the cost of tuition and fees at state institutions of higher education and may include an allowance for books and supplies.
- 7.7. Require that the student shall first submit the application/needs analysis form used to apply for federal student aid programs along with an application for the PROMISE scholarship..
- 7.8. The PROMISE Scholarship Program may be articulated with other related West Virginia student financial aid programs.

SECTION 8: PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP SUPPLEMENTAL FUND

- 8.1. A special revenue fund will be created in the State Treasury which shall be designated and known as the "PROMISE Scholarship Supplemental Fund."
 - 8.1.1. This fund shall consist of:
 - 8.1.1.1. All appropriations to the fund,
 - 8.1.1.2. All interest earned from the investment of the fund, and
 - 8.1.1.3. Any gifts, grants, or contributions received by the fund.
 - 8.1.2. Monies from this fund shall be used to assist state institutions in the event that the PROMISE Scholarship Program leads to an increased number of individuals attending those institutions and contributing expenses greater than the additional tuition income generated by the increased enrollment.

8.1.3. Monies from this fund shall be used to assist only public institutions of higher education.

8.1.4. Funds shall be divided among state institutions of higher education in a reasonable manner to reflect the actual distribution of PROMISE scholarship students among the institutions.

SUMMARY

**TITLE 133
LEGISLATIVE RULE
HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION**

SERIES 7

**WEST VIRGINIA PROVIDING REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAXIMIZING
IN-STATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE (PROMISE) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

This rule establishes guidelines and procedures which will direct the operation of the West Virginia Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing In-State Student Excellence Scholarship Program, also referred to as PROMISE.

□
APPENDIX B

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Rule Title: Rules for the Operation of the PROMISE Scholarship Program

Type of Rule: Legislative Interpretive Procedural

Agency: Higher Education Policy Commission

Address: 1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East

Suite 1100

Charleston, West Virginia 25301

1. Effect of Proposed rule:

	ANNUAL		FISCAL YEAR		
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	5,500,000.00		5,500,000	10,000,000	27,000,000
PERSONAL SERVICES	90,000.00		90,000	93,600	unknown
CURRENT EXPENSE	185,686.00		185,686	193,113.44	unknown
REPAIRS & ALTERATIONS					
EQUIPMENT					
OTHER					

2. Explanation of Above Estimates:

Assumes coordination of benefits with higher education grant program.

3. Objectives of These Rules:

Award merit-based scholarship for academically qualified students in West Virginia.

Rule Title: Rules for the Operation of the PROMISE Scholarship Program

4. Explanation of Overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule:

A. Economic Impact on State Government:

Immediate impact will be the \$9 million for the first year (the Fiscal Note). PROMISE is an investment by the State Legislature. PROMISE is expected to return greater economic benefits to the state of West Virginia.

B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific Groups of Citizens:

Everyone in the state of West Virginia is expected to benefit with the implementation of PROMISE. PROMISE will produce a more educated workforce. It will keep the best and brightest students in the state of West Virginia.

C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large.

The overall economic impact is expected to be very positive. A better educated and skilled workforce attracts better industry, better paying jobs and greater tax revenue for the state.

Date: 28 August, 2001

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative:

J Michael Miller