

SENATOR FOR A DAY MOCK LEGISLATION

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

NO. 5
Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY _____ March 26, 2026

REFERRED TO SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Grow PA Scholarship Program

This legislation would establish both the Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program and Grow Pennsylvania Merit Scholarship Program.

Section 1. Definitions

The following terms as used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section:

"Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program (Grow PA)." A scholarship program offering grants to eligible students who commit to completing degree requirements in Pennsylvania and working in in-demand occupations within the Commonwealth after graduation.

"PASSHE." Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

"Grow Pennsylvania Merit Scholarship Program." A scholarship program offering in-state tuition rates to eligible out-of-state students attending a PASSHE university in exchange for a commitment to work in Pennsylvania in an in-demand occupation post-graduation.

"Eligible Student." A student who: A. Is a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. B. Is enrolled or plans to enroll in an approved postsecondary institution offering a program of study in an in-demand occupation. C. Has signed an agreement with PHEAA to satisfy program degree requirements and commit to working in Pennsylvania in an in-demand occupation after graduation.

"In-demand occupation." A field or profession that is experiencing a significant demand for workers, as identified by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

"PHEAA." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, responsible for administering the Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program.

Section 2. Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program

(A) Program Overview: The Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program is hereby established to provide \$5,000 grants to eligible students attending an accredited institution in Pennsylvania.

(B) Eligibility Requirements:

1. The student must enter into an agreement with PHEAA to:
 - a) Complete the required degree program in an in-demand occupation.
 - b) Work for at least 12 months in Pennsylvania after graduation in an approved occupation.
2. If the student fails to meet the terms of the agreement, they will be required to reimburse PHEAA for the amount of the scholarship.

(C) Administration: PHEAA shall administer the Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program starting in the 2025-2026 academic year.

Section 3. Grow Pennsylvania Merit Scholarship Program

(A) Program Overview: The Grow Pennsylvania Merit Scholarship Program is established to offer in-state tuition rates to eligible out-of-state students attending PASSHE universities.

(B) Eligibility Requirements:

1. The student must agree to work in Pennsylvania in an in-demand occupation after graduation.
2. The program shall begin in the 2026-2027 academic year.

Section 7. Effective Date

This act shall take effect immediately upon enactment.