

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-Seventh General Assembly  
STATE OF SAN ANDREAS**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 26-0711.01 Alexis Holmes x2352

**HOUSE BILL 26-006**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Kent**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Gomez, Haynes, Mendoza**

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**House Committees**

Not assigned

**Senate Committees**

Not assigned

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

**CONCERNING COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANTS FOR IN-STATE STUDENTS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <https://saleg.uscgov.com>)*

This bill establishes the College Opportunity Grant Fund, a state-administered financial aid program designed to expand access to higher education for in-state students attending public colleges and universities. The bill creates a dedicated fund within the State Treasury to provide need-based grants that do not require repayment.

The program is intended to reduce financial barriers for residents pursuing postsecondary education while strengthening workforce development and long-term economic growth.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Underlining denotes SENATE amendment.

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*

*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

Grants awarded under the program may be used for tuition, mandatory fees, required course materials, and other approved education-related expenses.

The Department of Higher Education is responsible for administering the program, determining eligibility, and establishing award amounts based on financial need and available funding. Priority is given to students from low- and moderate-income households. Grants may be renewed for multiple academic years if students maintain satisfactory academic progress.

The bill specifies that the College Opportunity Grant supplements existing federal, institutional, and state financial aid programs and does not replace other available assistance.

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**1** *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San*  
**2** *Andreas:*  
**3** **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.** This Act shall be known and may  
**4** be cited as the “College Opportunity Grant Act.” **SECTION 2.**  
**5** **LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION.** The General Assembly finds  
**6** and declares that: (a) Access to affordable higher education  
**7** strengthens the economic vitality, workforce readiness, and civic  
**8** participation of the state. (b) Rising tuition and educational costs  
**9** have created financial barriers for many qualified in-state students  
**10** seeking postsecondary education. (c) Increasing access to higher  
**11** education opportunities promotes long-term economic growth,  
**12** reduces reliance on public assistance, and improves overall  
**13** community outcomes. (d) It is the intent of the General Assembly  
**14** to establish a stable and dedicated funding source to provide  
**15** need-based financial assistance to eligible in-state students  
**16** attending public institutions of higher education. (e) The College  
**17** Opportunity Grant Fund is intended to supplement, not replace,  
**18** existing federal, institutional, or state financial aid programs.  
**19** **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this Act, unless the  
**20** context otherwise requires: (a) “Department” means the

1 Department of Higher Education. (b) “Eligible student” means an  
2 individual who: (I) Is classified as an in-state resident for tuition  
3 purposes under state law; (II) Is enrolled or accepted for  
4 enrollment in an eligible public institution of higher education  
5 within the state; (III) Demonstrates financial need as determined  
6 by the Department through a standardized application process;  
7 and (IV) Meets satisfactory academic progress requirements  
8 established by the Department. (c) “Eligible institution” means  
9 any public community college, state college, or public university  
10 located within the state. (d) “Grant” means financial assistance  
11 awarded from the College Opportunity Grant Fund that does not  
12 require repayment. **SECTION 4. CREATION OF THE**  
13 **COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT FUND.** (a) There is hereby  
14 created in the State Treasury the College Opportunity Grant Fund,  
15 referred to in this Act as the “Fund.” (b) The Fund shall consist  
16 of: (I) Appropriations made by the General Assembly; (II) Gifts,  
17 grants, or donations from public or private sources; (III) Interest  
18 earned on monies in the Fund; and (IV) Any other monies  
19 designated by law. (c) Monies in the Fund shall be continuously  
20 appropriated to the Department for the purposes set forth in this  
21 Act and shall not revert to the general fund at the end of any fiscal  
22 year. **SECTION 5. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.**  
23 (a) The Department of Higher Education shall administer the  
24 College Opportunity Grant Program. (b) The Department shall: (I)  
25 Establish application procedures and deadlines; (II) Determine  
26 eligibility and award amounts based on financial need and  
27 available appropriations; (III) Coordinate with existing financial  
28 aid programs to prevent duplication of benefits; (IV) Prioritize  
29 awards for students from low- and moderate-income households;  
30 and (V) Ensure equitable access to students attending community  
31 colleges, state colleges, and universities. (c) Grant awards may be  
32 used for tuition, mandatory fees, required course materials, and  
33 other education-related expenses as defined by rule. **SECTION 6.**

1 ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD LIMITATIONS. (a) Grants shall be  
2 awarded only to eligible students enrolled at least half-time in an  
3 eligible institution. (b) Grant awards may be renewable annually  
4 for up to four academic years, or the equivalent for part-time  
5 students, provided the student maintains satisfactory academic  
6 progress. (c) The Department may establish maximum award  
7 amounts by rule based on available funding and demonstrated  
8 need. (d) Nothing in this Act shall prohibit an eligible student  
9 from receiving other forms of financial aid. **SECTION 7.**  
10 **REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY.** (a) On or before  
11 January 15 of each year, the Department shall submit a report to  
12 the Governor and the General Assembly that includes: (I) The  
13 number of students receiving grants; (II) Average grant award  
14 amounts; (III) Distribution of awards by institution type; (IV)  
15 Student retention and completion data, where available; and (V)  
16 Recommendations for program improvement. (b) The report shall  
17 be made publicly available on the Department's website.  
18 **SECTION 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.** The Department of  
19 Higher Education may promulgate rules necessary to implement  
20 and administer this Act. **SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This  
21 Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.