

H. B. 2528

(By Delegate Reynolds)

[Introduced February 2, 2015; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18C-1-6, relating to providing scholarships for certain former coal miners; and granting rule-making authority.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §18C-1-6, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GENERALLY.

§18C-1-6. Tuition and fees for state resident coal miners to receive training at state community colleges; rule making.

(a) Any resident of this state who has been employed as a coal miner for ten years or more, and has been laid off from the industry for three or more years in the last ten year period, is eligible to receive a scholarship for tuition and fees at any accredited community and technical college in the state to be retrained in another skill or profession.

1 **(b) The Higher Education Policy Commission shall promulgate rules in accordance with**
2 **article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to establishing eligibility and guidelines for**
3 **unemployed or underemployed coal miners as defined in subsection (a) to attend any accredited**
4 **community and technical college in the state for two years as a full time student or a longer period**
5 **as a part time student to receive an education in a trade, technical field or other profession. The**
6 **Higher Education Policy Commission may prescribe criteria for eligibility for payment of tuition and**
7 **fees. The offer of a scholarship is contingent upon appropriations being made by the Legislature for**
8 **the express purpose of this section. A resident unemployed or underemployed coal miner deemed**
9 **to be eligible pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the rules of the Higher Education Policy**
10 **Commission, may receive payment for only one certificate, associate degree, or other certificate**
11 **provided at an approved accredited community and technical college pursuant to this section.**

12 **(c) For any eligible coal miner who is participating in the PROMISE Scholarship program**
13 **provided in article seven of this chapter, the rules of the Higher Education Policy Commission may**
14 **pay directly to the recipient an amount equal to the amount of tuition and fees which otherwise**
15 **would have been paid to the school.**

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide scholarships for certain former coal miners. The bill grants rule-making authority.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.