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# SENATE BILL No. 161

AM016102 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

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**Synopsis:** Education matters.

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2026

IN 161—LS 6719/DI 143



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Introduced

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 161

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 21-18-9-12 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 12. (a) As used in this section,**  
4 **"low earning outcome degree program" refers to the term as**  
5 **described in Section 84001(c)(2) of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act**  
6 **of 2025 (Public Law 119-21).**  
7 **(b) The commission shall adopt rules to prohibit funding that**  
8 **the commission administers under IC 21-18-6-2 or IC 21-18.5-4**  
9 **from being allocated or expended, directly or indirectly, to low**  
10 **earning outcome degree programs. The rules must include**  
11 **allocations or expenditures for the following categories of higher**  
12 **education funding:**  
13 **(1) Individual student financial aid.**  
14 **(2) Separately or specially appropriated aid or grants.**  
15 **(c) The commission shall annually review updated federal**

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determinations of low earning outcome degree programs to revise the rules adopted under subsection (b) as necessary.

(d) The commission shall submit an annual report to the general assembly, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, that includes the following information:

(1) Any low earning outcome degree program that the commission has prohibited from receiving funding described in subsection (b).

(2) The commission's efforts at enforcing the prohibitions described in subsection (b).

(3) The estimated fiscal impact of the prohibitions described in subsection (b).

SECTION 2. IC 22-4.1-4-16 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) The following definitions apply throughout this section:

(1) "Eligible workforce training program" refers to a program that meets the requirements in Section 83002 of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 (Public Law 119-21).

(2) "High skill industry sectors or occupations" refers to sectors or occupations that require postsecondary education, experience, or training beyond a high school diploma.

(3) "High wage industry sectors or occupations" refers to sectors or occupations with earnings above one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the federal poverty level for individual earners.

(4) "In demand industry sectors or occupations" refers to sectors or occupations identified:

(A) in state, regional, or local workforce development or labor market projections;

(B) as growing or emerging sectors or occupations; or

(C) as having projected shortages or hiring demand.

(b) The department shall do the following:

(1) Establish a process to identify and approve eligible workforce training programs that prepare students for:

(A) high skill industry sectors or occupations;

(B) high wage industry sectors or occupations; and

(C) in demand industry sectors or occupations;

for workforce Pell grants.

(2) Establish a process for institutions and programs to:

(A) apply for recognition as an eligible workforce



- 1 training program;  
2 (B) be approved for workforce Pell grants; and  
3 (C) appeal denials of workforce Pell grants.  
4 (3) Coordinate the approval of eligible workforce training  
5 programs with:  
6 (A) workforce focused agencies;  
7 (B) workforce related programs; and  
8 (C) state and federal programs.  
9 (4) Require eligible workforce training programs to provide  
10 data to demonstrate program outcomes, as determined by  
11 the department, including:  
12 (A) program completion rates;  
13 (B) job placement rates; and  
14 (C) graduate earnings.  
15 (c) The department shall ensure that the implementation of  
16 this section is consistent with any applicable federal rules  
17 governing the workforce Pell grant program.

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