

HB 2408 -- BRIGHT FLIGHT PROMISE PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Fitzpatrick

This bill establishes the "Bright Flight Promise Program," under which eligible Missouri students scoring in the top 3% on the ACT or SAT may be awarded \$3,000 scholarships. Such scholarships shall no longer be awarded to first-time students after July 1, 2019.

Instead, subject to appropriation, the Bright Flight Promise Program will award grants to eligible students who score in the top 5% on the ACT or SAT and promise to live and work in Missouri after graduation for at least four consecutive years.

Eligibility requirements as well as acceptance policies for Bright Flight Promise grants are listed in the bill.

Eligible students may be awarded a grant of an amount up to the actual cost of tuition and fees charged by the institution the student attends. The grant may not exceed the cost of tuition and fees charged to a Missouri resident by the public university with the highest combined tuition and fee cost in the state.

Institutions may not reduce institutional financial aid awards to a student based on the student's receipt of a Bright Flight Promise grant, and the grant will be reduced by the amount of any institutional aid.

The State Auditor shall conduct an annual audit of the Bright Flight Promise Program.