

As Introduced

131st General Assembly

Regular Session

2015-2016

H. B. No. 27

Representative Ramos

**Cosponsors: Representatives Driehaus, Antonio, Patterson, Boyd, Rezabek,
Lepore-Hagan, Phillips, Reece, Celebrezze, Fedor, Sheehy**

A BILL

To enact sections 3333.27 and 3333.271 of the 1
Revised Code to create the Finish Fund and the 2
Finish Reserve Fund to provide grants to 3
students who are nearing completion of their 4
associate or bachelor's degrees and display 5
financial need or hardship and to make an 6
appropriation. 7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3333.27 and 3333.271 of the 8
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 9

Sec. 3333.27. (A) As used in this section: 10

(1) "Eligible student" means an undergraduate student who: 11

(a) Is enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree 12
program at a state institution of higher education or a 13
nonprofit institution issued a certificate of authorization 14
under Chapter 1713. of the Revised Code; 15

(b) Is a resident of Ohio, as defined by the chancellor of 16
the Ohio board of regents under section 3333.31 of the Revised 17

<u>Code;</u>	18
<u>(c) Is making satisfactory academic progress, as defined</u>	19
<u>by the financial aid office, or the equivalent, at the</u>	20
<u>institution in which the student is enrolled;</u>	21
<u>(d) Has attained and maintains a cumulative grade point</u>	22
<u>average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent;</u>	23
<u>(e) Has declared an academic major or program for which</u>	24
<u>the student earns credit;</u>	25
<u>(f) (i) If the student is enrolled in a bachelor's degree</u>	26
<u>program, would be considered a junior or senior as determined by</u>	27
<u>the credits completed by the student toward the student's</u>	28
<u>declared degree program;</u>	29
<u>(ii) If the student is enrolled in an associate degree</u>	30
<u>program, the student has completed fifty per cent or more of the</u>	31
<u>coursework required for the student's declared academic program.</u>	32
<u>(g) Displays financial need, based on the United States</u>	33
<u>department of education's method of determining financial need</u>	34
<u>or based on demonstrated financial hardship, as determined by</u>	35
<u>the chancellor.</u>	36
<u>(2) "State institution of higher education" has the same</u>	37
<u>meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.</u>	38
<u>(B) The chancellor shall establish and administer the</u>	39
<u>finish fund to provide grants to eligible students nearing</u>	40
<u>completion of their associate or bachelor's degrees. The</u>	41
<u>chancellor shall request the director of budget and management</u>	42
<u>to transfer any funds not awarded under this section in a fiscal</u>	43
<u>year to the finish reserve fund created in section 3333.271 of</u>	44
<u>the Revised Code to use for awarding grants in subsequent fiscal</u>	45

years. 46

(C) Not later than one hundred eighty days after the 47
effective date of this section, the chancellor shall adopt a 48
policy by which to solicit, accept, and review applications for 49
the finish fund. The policy shall include, but not be limited 50
to, all of the following: 51

(1) A method of determining the amount of each grant 52
awarded to an eligible student. In calculating that amount, the 53
chancellor shall consider the student's remaining instructional 54
and general charges or tuition and room and board or off-campus 55
living expenses, as certified or, in the case of off-campus 56
living expenses, as determined by the institution, after the 57
student's other funding sources are applied to the instructional 58
and general charges or tuition and room and board or off-campus 59
living expenses for the undergraduate program. 60

(2) A method for paying the grant to the eligible student 61
through the institution in which the student is enrolled. 62

(3) A method for disbursement of any surplus amount 63
remaining in a student's account, after applying the grant to 64
the instructional and general charges or tuition owed by a 65
student, to the student to be used for books, room and board, or 66
any other costs related to attendance. 67

The chancellor may adopt additional program guidelines and 68
qualifications for the finish fund, so long as those guidelines 69
and qualifications help to identify students most at risk of 70
leaving an institution before completing a degree program due to 71
financial hardship and students most likely to complete a degree 72
program with additional funding. 73

(D) If, for any academic year, the amounts available for 74

support of the program are inadequate to provide grants to all 75
eligible students, the chancellor shall give preference in the 76
awarding of grants as follows: 77

(1) First, to eligible students who are considered seniors 78
in a bachelor degree program who have applied for and, if 79
received, used the entirety of all of the following, but are 80
still unable to meet the cost of attending the institution in 81
which the student is enrolled, including room and board or off- 82
campus living expenses, as determined by the institution's 83
financial aid office: 84

(a) A Pell grant or any other grant awarded by the federal 85
government based on financial need; 86

(b) The Ohio college opportunity grant under section 87
3333.122 of the Revised Code; 88

(c) Any grants or scholarships awarded to the student and 89
disbursed by the institution of higher education in which the 90
student is enrolled; 91

(d) A federal subsidized loan. 92

(2) Second, to eligible students who are considered 93
juniors in a bachelor degree program who have applied for and, 94
if received, used the entirety of funding sources listed in 95
divisions (D) (1) (a) to (d) of this section, but are still unable 96
to meet the cost of attending the institution in which the 97
student is enrolled, including room and board, as determined by 98
the institution's financial aid office; 99

(3) Third, to eligible students who are considered seniors 100
in a bachelor degree program who have applied for and, if 101
received, used the entirety of the funding sources listed in 102
divisions (D) (1) (a) to (c) of this section, but are still unable 103

to meet the cost of attending the institution in which the 104
student is enrolled, including room and board, as determined by 105
the institution's financial aid office; 106

(4) Fourth, to eligible students who are considered 107
juniors in a bachelor degree program who have applied for and, 108
if received, used the entirety of the funding sources listed in 109
divisions (D) (1) (a) to (c) of this section, but are still unable 110
to meet the cost of attending the institution in which the 111
student is enrolled, including room and board, as determined by 112
the institution's financial aid office; 113

(5) Fifth, to eligible students who have completed fifty 114
per cent or more of the coursework required for the student's 115
declared academic program for an associate degree who have 116
applied for and, if received, used the entirety of the funding 117
sources listed in divisions (D) (1) (a) to (c) of this section, 118
but are still unable to meet the cost of attending the 119
institution in which the student is enrolled, including room and 120
board, as determined by the institution's financial aid office. 121

In prioritizing grants under this section, the chancellor 122
shall not reduce the dollar value of grants awarded to increase 123
the number of eligible students who receive a grant. 124

(E) The chancellor shall begin accepting and reviewing 125
applications and awarding grants under this section not later 126
than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this 127
section. 128

(F) The chancellor shall require state institutions of 129
higher education and nonprofit institutions issued a certificate 130
of authorization under Chapter 1713. of the Revised Code to 131
report all of the following at the end of each academic year: 132

(1) The number of students enrolled in the institution who 133
receive grants under this section; 134

(2) The average dollar amount of grants, and the lowest 135
and highest dollar amount of awards granted under this section; 136

(3) The number of students who receive grants under this 137
section who complete their academic programs; 138

(4) The number of students who receive a grant under this 139
section who fail to complete their academic programs 140
disaggregated by the reason, including, but not limited to, 141
dropping out of school and failure; 142

(5) The number of students still enrolled in the 143
institution and taking courses, but have neither completed nor 144
failed to earn their degrees. 145

Sec. 3333.271. The finish reserve fund is hereby 146
established in the state treasury. After the end of each fiscal 147
year, the chancellor of the Ohio board of regents shall request 148
the director of budget and management to transfer any funds 149
remaining after the chancellor has awarded grants under section 150
3333.27 of the Revised Code into the finish reserve fund from 151
which the chancellor may award future grants under that section. 152

Section 2. All items in this section are hereby 153
appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state 154
treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all 155
appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are 156
for fiscal year 2016 and those in the second column are for 157
fiscal year 2017. The appropriations made in this act are in 158
addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2016-FY 159
2017 biennium. 160

BOR BOARD OF REGENTS 161

General Revenue Fund			162
GRF 235532 Finish Fund	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	163
TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	164
TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	165

FINISH FUND 166

The foregoing appropriation item 235532, Finish Fund, 167
shall be used to grant financial aid awards through the Finish 168
Fund Program, pursuant to section 3333.27 of the Revised Code. 169

At the end of each fiscal year, the Chancellor of the 170
Board of Regents shall certify to the Director of Budget and 171
Management the unencumbered, unexpended balance in appropriation 172
item 235532, Finish Fund. Upon receipt of the certification, the 173
Director of Budget and Management shall transfer cash in an 174
amount equal to the amount certified from the General Revenue 175
Fund to the Finish Reserve Fund (Fund 5QG0). The Chancellor of 176
the Board of Regents shall seek Controlling Board approval to 177
authorize additional expenditures for appropriation item 235532, 178
Finish Fund. Upon approval of the Controlling Board, the 179
additional amounts are hereby appropriated. 180

Section 3. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 181
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 182
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 183
made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in 184
which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures 185
from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for 186
as though made in the main operating appropriations act of the 187
131st General Assembly. 188

The appropriations made in this act are subject to all 189

provisions of the main operating appropriations act of the 131st	190
General Assembly that are generally applicable to such	191
appropriations.	192