

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to amend as follows:

1 After line 275389a, insert:

2 "GRF 235530 Governor's Merit Scholarship \$0 \$20,000,000"

3 In line 275415, add \$20,000,000 to fiscal year 2025

4 In line 275441, add \$20,000,000 to fiscal year 2025

5 After line 276418, insert:

6 **"Section 381.400.** GOVERNOR'S MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

7 (A) The foregoing appropriation item 235530, Governor's  
8 Merit Scholarship, shall be used by the Chancellor of Higher  
9 Education to award merit-based aid to qualifying institutions on  
10 behalf of eligible students. Funds awarded under this section  
11 shall be used in a manner consistent with the goal of allowing  
12 high-achieving high school graduates to remain in Ohio to pursue  
13 their post-secondary studies and contribute to Ohio's expanding  
14 economic opportunities.

15 (B) In awarding funds under this section, and to the extent  
16 that funds are sufficient to do so, the Chancellor shall provide  
17 per-student awards of \$5,000 per academic year to eligible  
18 students determined to be in the top five per cent of their

19 public or chartered nonpublic high school graduating class, as  
20 determined by the Chancellor in consultation with the Director  
21 of Education and Workforce. Eligible students shall receive an  
22 award for up to the equivalent of four academic years of  
23 instruction at a qualifying institution, contingent on  
24 satisfactory academic progress.

25 (C) The Chancellor, in consultation with the Director,  
26 shall determine eligibility for graduating high school students  
27 who were home schooled to provide a level of access to the  
28 program described in this section that is reasonably  
29 commensurate with the merit-based criteria used to determine  
30 eligibility for students graduating from a public or chartered  
31 nonpublic high school.

32 (D) The Governor's Merit Scholarship shall be used to pay  
33 eligible expenses, as determined by the Chancellor, included  
34 within the published cost of attendance at a qualifying  
35 institution.

36 (E) A qualifying institution shall not make changes to  
37 scholarship or financial aid programs offered by that  
38 institution that have the goal or net effect of shifting the  
39 cost burden of those programs to the program described in this  
40 section. Institutions of higher education that enroll students  
41 receiving merit-based financial aid grants under this section  
42 shall maintain the same level of merit-based financial aid the

43 institution provided in the most recent academic year in the  
44 aggregate to all students or on a per-student basis.

45 (F) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
46 the Chancellor may establish guidelines for the purpose of  
47 implementing this section.

48 (G) As used in this section, "qualifying institution" means  
49 any of the following:

50 (1) A state institution of higher education, as defined in  
51 section 3345.011 of the Revised Code;

52 (2) A private nonprofit institution of higher education  
53 holding a certificate of authorization under Chapter 1713. of  
54 the Revised Code."

55 The motion was \_\_\_\_\_ agreed to.

56 SYNOPSIS

57 **Department of Higher Education**

58 **Sections 381.10 and 381.400**

59 Restores the FY 2025 earmark from the As Introduced version  
60 for GRF ALI 235530, Governor's Merit Scholarship, and provides  
61 an appropriation as follows:

62 - Appropriates \$20,000,000 in FY 2025 and earmarks the same  
63 amount to be used to award individual merit-based scholarships  
64 of \$5,000 per academic year to eligible students determined to  
65 be in the top 5% of their public or chartered nonpublic high  
66 school's graduating class, as determined by the Chancellor in  
67 consultation with DEW.

68           Requires the following:

69           (1) Eligible students receive an award for up to the  
70 equivalent of four academic years at a public or private  
71 nonprofit institution of higher education, contingent on  
72 satisfactory academic progress;

73           (2) The Chancellor and DEW determine eligibility for  
74 homeschooled high school graduates to provide them with a  
75 similar level of access to the scholarship; and

76           (3) The scholarships be used to pay eligible expenses, as  
77 determined by the Chancellor, included within the institution's  
78 published cost of attendance.

79           Prohibits an institution receiving funds under this program  
80 from either:

81           (1) Changing their scholarship or financial aid programs to  
82 shift the cost of those programs onto this one; or

83           (2) Reducing their level of merit-based financial aid below  
84 what they provided in the most recent academic year in the  
85 aggregate to all students or on a per-student basis.

86           Permits the Chancellor to establish guidelines to implement  
87 this program.