

H.B. 359
Engineering and Science Income Tax Incentive Program
126th General Assembly
Bill Summary

Sponsor:	Representative Earl Martin	(R- Avon Lake)
Status:	Introduced	Sept. 29, 2005
	Referred to House Finance and Appropriations C.	Oct. 6, 2005
	1 st Hearing	Oct. 26, 2005

What this bill does:

- Authorizes the Ohio Board of Regents to grant tax credits to individuals who earn degrees in certain science and technology-based fields of study
- Under the bill, the Board of Regents, or an entity designated by the Board of Regents, would be authorized to grant tax credits to individuals who accept employment in Ohio after graduating with a degree in an approved field of study.
- The total amount of the credit would be:
 - \$20,000 for a bachelor's degree
 - \$30,000 for a master's degree or doctoral degree
 - \$5,000 for an associate degree
- An individual approved for a credit would be able to claim 1/10th of the total credit amount in the year in which the individual obtains the degree and 1/10th of the credit for each of the succeeding nine taxable years.
- To obtain the credit, the individual would have to submit an application to the Board of Regents, or to an entity designated by the Board of Regents. The application would have to demonstrate that the individual graduated from an institution of higher education with a degree in an approved field of study and include any other information required by the Board.
- After reviewing an application, the Board of Regents or the Board's designee would issue a tax credit certificate to the applicant. The certificate would state the total amount of the credit, the taxable years for which the credit could be claimed, and the maximum amount of credit that could be claimed for each taxable year.
- Individuals who are issued a tax credit certificate could be issued additional certificates in the future for additional degrees earned in approved fields of study.
- Under the bill, the Ohio Board of Regents would not be able to authorize any individual to claim a tax credit for a degree in an approved field of study for any taxable year after the taxable year that includes the date on which the individual attains:
 - 33 years of age in the case of a tax credit granted with respect to an associate, bachelor's or master's degree
 - 35 years of age in the case of a tax credit granted with respect to a doctoral degree
- The Board of Regents is directed to adopt rules to:
 - Identify fields of study that constitute "approved fields of study." In doing so, the Board is to give priority to those fields related to information technology, power and propulsion, advanced materials, instruments and controls, electronics, and biotechnology and biosciences.
 - Specify information to be included on the application for a tax credit
 - Identify institutions located outside Ohio that constitute "institutions of higher education."

Additional Information

- To access the bill in its entirety, click on the following link:
http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=126_HB_359