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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill

Referred to	Committe	e:

House 3

Red | Bill # HB 38

Authors: Jaiyn Shorter, Devaughnnah Birdsong, Naima Martin	Action	on the Bill
School: Nativity Academy at St Boniface	House	Senate
	□ Passed	□ Passed
City: Louisville	☐ Defeated	☐ Defeated

An act to provide aid to students seeking funds for private high schools.

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: This bill will require that no students seeking private high school will be rejected based solely on financial bases. This program will be income-based and only provided to families who receive free and reduced lunch. Only incoming 9th and 10th graders are eligible to apply and yearly renewal will be required. Renewal process will require that parent and students submit income verification and grades. Students must be on honor roll and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0. If students cannot maintain required GPA student will be granted one semester to regain grades or risk losing a portion or even aid. Students must be able to pay at least 25% of tuition. This percentage can be paid in the form of work studies hours performed at school by students or parents. In addition students will be required to perform additional service hours in the community and school.

Section 2: Many Kentuckians seek and want to attend private middle and high school however they are unable to afford tuition. Private schooling can be expensive as college with an annual tuition rates in the tens of thousands of dollars. Financial aid for students wanting to attend these schools is very limited providing sometimes less than 5% of financial aid to students. We want all eligible students to choose what school they attend and not have financial burdens prevent them from doing so.

Section 3: This bill will be enforced by the Kentucky Department of Education. Funding will be provided to schools in the form of a voucher and private school accepting vouchers will be awarded a small state grant. In addition, Kentucky taxpayers can receive a tax credit for donation they make to school tuition program. This tuition program will be paid by taxpayers however other states that have adopted such programs is costing the state approximately \$4,000 per student as opposed to public school system costing nearly \$7.500

Section 4: Private schools that refuse to take financial tuition vouchers will lose any state aid that they may receive.

Section 5: This bill enacted in the fall of the 2015 school year.