**South Carolina General Assembly**

124th Session, 2021-2022

**A36, R49, H3017**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Davis, Atkinson, B. Newton, Magnuson, Fry, Daning, Felder, May, Long, Pope, Forrest, Oremus, M.M. Smith, Yow, McGinnis, Govan, Brawley, Willis, Henderson‑Myers, Jones and McDaniel

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Introduced in the House on January 12, 2021

Introduced in the Senate on February 18, 2021

Last Amended on April 20, 2021

Passed by the General Assembly on April 27, 2021

Governor's Action: May 6, 2021, Signed

Summary: Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 12/9/2020 House Prefiled

 12/9/2020 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works**

 1/12/2021 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 39](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20210112.docx))

 1/12/2021 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 39](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20210112.docx))

 1/26/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: M.M.Smith

 1/27/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Yow

 2/10/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: McGinnis

 2/11/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Govan

 2/11/2021 House Committee report: Favorable **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 16](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20210211.docx))

 2/16/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Brawley, Willis, Henderson‑Myers

 2/17/2021 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Jones, McDaniel

 2/17/2021 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 19](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20210217.docx))

 2/17/2021 House Roll call Yeas‑115 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 19](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20210217.docx))

 2/18/2021 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 69](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20210218.docx))

 2/18/2021 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 5](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20210218.docx))

 2/18/2021 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education** ([Senate Journal‑page 5](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20210218.docx))

 4/14/2021 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Education** ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20210414.docx))

 4/20/2021 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 20](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20210420.docx))

 4/20/2021 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 20](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20210420.docx))

 4/20/2021 Senate Roll call Ayes‑44 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 20](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20210420.docx))

 4/21/2021 Senate Read third time and returned to House with amendments ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h%3A%5Csj%5C20210421.docx))

 4/27/2021 House Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 118](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20210427.docx))

 4/27/2021 House Roll call Yeas‑111 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 118](file:///h%3A%5Chj%5C20210427.docx))

 5/6/2021 Signed By Governor

 5/4/2021 Ratified R 49

 5/13/2021 Effective date 05/06/21

 5/13/2021 Act No.  36

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/9/2020](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2021-22%5C3017_20201209.docx)

[2/11/2021](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2021-22%5C3017_20210211.docx)

[4/14/2021](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2021-22%5C3017_20210414.docx)

[4/20/2021](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2021-22%5C3017_20210420.docx)

(A36, R49, H3017)

**AN ACT** **TO AMEND SECTION 59‑104‑20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY FOR PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIPS, SO AS TO INCLUDE TWO‑YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES AMONG INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING WHOSE STUDENTS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS; AND TO AMEND SECTION 59‑149‑60, RELATING TO THE DURATION OF LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS, SO AS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS MAY NOT RECEIVE LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MORE THAN SIX SEMESTERS FOR THREE‑YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Palmetto Fellows Scholarships, eligibility expanded**

SECTION 1. Section 59‑104‑20(E), (F), and (H) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

 “(E) A Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is available to an eligible resident student who attends or will attend an eligible public or independent institution.

 (F) For purposes of subsection (E):

 (1) ‘Public or independent institution’ means a:

 (a) South Carolina public institution defined in Section 59‑103‑5, and an independent institution as defined in Section 59‑113‑50; or

 (b) public or independent bachelor’s level institution chartered before 1962 whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina.

 (2) ‘Resident student’ means a:

 (a) student who is either a member of a class graduating from a high school located in this State, a home school student who has successfully completed a high school home school program in this State in the manner required by law, or a student graduating from a preparatory high school outside this State, while a dependent of a parent or guardian who is a legal resident of this State and has custody of the dependent; and

 (b) student classified as a resident of South Carolina for in‑state tuition purposes under Chapter 112 of this title at the time of enrollment at the institution.

 (H) Notwithstanding another provision of law, a student who met the initial eligibility requirements to receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Award as a senior in high school and has met the continuing eligibility requirements shall receive the award. A student who received a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Award as a senior in high school but declined the award is eligible to reapply for the annual scholarship, providing he meets all of the initial and continuing academic eligibility requirements of the Palmetto Fellows program, if he transfers to a qualifying South Carolina institution of higher learning. The number of semesters or academic years a student attended an out‑of‑state institution are to be deducted from the number of semesters or academic years a student is eligible for the scholarship. All funding provided for Palmetto Fellows Scholarships regardless of its source or allocation must be used to implement the provisions of this subsection. A student who uses a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship to attend an eligible two‑year institution shall receive a maximum of four continuous semesters, and may continue to use the scholarship to attend an eligible four‑year institution, subject to maximum number of semesters for which the student may be eligible for the scholarship.”

**LIFE Scholarships, eligibility, duration**

SECTION 2. Section 59‑149‑60 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

 “Section 59‑149‑60. The student may receive a LIFE Scholarship for not more than ten semesters for a five‑year degree program, eight semesters for a four‑year degree program, four semesters for a two‑year degree program, or six semesters for a three‑year degree program.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 4th day of May, 2021.

Approved the 6th day of May, 2021.

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