

Amendment:   7  

**Representative BALLENTINE proposes the following amendment:**

## **SECTION 11 – COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Amend

**11.8.** (CHE: Need-Based Grants for Foster Youth) For the current academic year, youth in the custody of the Department of Social Services and attending a higher education institution in South Carolina are eligible for additional need-based grants funding of up to \$2,000 above the ~~\$2,500~~ \$3,500 maximum. Foster youth must apply for these funds no later than May first, of the preceding year. All other grants, both state and federal, for which these foster youth are eligible must be applied first to the cost of attendance prior to using the additional need-based grant funding. If the cost of attendance for a foster youth is met with other grants and scholarships, then no additional need-based grant may be used. The Department of Social Services, in cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education will track the numbers of recipients of this additional need-based grant to determine its effectiveness in encouraging more foster youth to pursue a secondary education. No more than \$100,000 may be expended from currently appropriated need-based grants funding for this additional assistance.