

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by changing Section 65.100 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.100)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on October 1, 2024)

8 Sec. 65.100. AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program.

9 (a) The General Assembly makes all of the following
10 findings:

11 (1) Both access and affordability are important
12 aspects of the Illinois Public Agenda for College and
13 Career Success report.

14 (2) This State is in the top quartile with respect to
15 the percentage of family income needed to pay for college.

16 (3) Research suggests that as loan amounts increase,
17 rather than an increase in grant amounts, the probability
18 of college attendance decreases.

19 (4) There is further research indicating that
20 socioeconomic status may affect the willingness of
21 students to use loans to attend college.

22 (5) Strategic use of tuition discounting can decrease
23 the amount of loans that students must use to pay for

1 tuition.

2 (6) A modest, individually tailored tuition discount
3 can make the difference in a student choosing to attend
4 college and enhance college access for low-income and
5 middle-income families.

6 (7) Even if the federally calculated financial need for
7 college attendance is met, the federally determined
8 Expected Family Contribution can still be a daunting
9 amount.

10 (8) This State is the second largest exporter of
11 students in the country.

12 (9) When talented Illinois students attend
13 universities in this State, the State and those
14 universities benefit.

15 (10) State universities in other states have adopted
16 pricing and incentives that allow many Illinois residents
17 to pay less to attend an out-of-state university than to
18 remain in this State for college.

19 (11) Supporting Illinois student attendance at
20 Illinois public universities can assist in State efforts to
21 maintain and educate a highly trained workforce.

22 (12) Modest tuition discounts that are individually
23 targeted and tailored can result in enhanced revenue for
24 public universities.

25 (13) By increasing a public university's capacity to
26 strategically use tuition discounting, the public

1 university will be capable of creating enhanced tuition
2 revenue by increasing enrollment yields.

3 (b) In this Section:

4 "Eligible applicant" means a student from any high school
5 in this State, whether or not recognized by the State Board of
6 Education, who is engaged in a program of study that in due
7 course will be completed by the end of the school year and who
8 meets all of the qualifications and requirements under this
9 Section.

10 "Tuition and other necessary fees" includes the customary
11 charge for instruction and use of facilities in general and the
12 additional fixed fees charged for specified purposes that are
13 required generally of non-grant recipients for each academic
14 period for which the grant applicant actually enrolls, but does
15 not include fees payable only once or breakage fees and other
16 contingent deposits that are refundable in whole or in part.
17 The Commission may adopt, by rule not inconsistent with this
18 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of
19 tuition and other necessary fees.

20 (c) Beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, each public
21 university may establish a merit-based scholarship pilot
22 program known as the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program. Each year,
23 the Commission shall receive and consider applications from
24 public universities under this Section. Subject to
25 appropriation and any tuition waiver limitation established by
26 the Board of Higher Education, a public university campus may

1 award a grant to a student under this Section if it finds that
2 the applicant meets all of the following criteria:

3 (1) He or she is a resident of this State and a citizen
4 or eligible noncitizen of the United States.

5 (2) He or she files a Free Application for Federal
6 Student Aid and demonstrates financial need with a
7 household income no greater than 6 times the poverty
8 guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by
9 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the
10 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

11 (3) He or she meets the minimum cumulative grade point
12 average or ACT or SAT college admissions test score, as
13 determined by the public university campus.

14 (4) He or she is enrolled in a public university as an
15 undergraduate student on a full-time basis.

16 (5) He or she has not yet received a baccalaureate
17 degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours.

18 (6) He or she is not incarcerated.

19 (7) He or she is not in default on any student loan or
20 does not owe a refund or repayment on any State or federal
21 grant or scholarship.

22 (8) Any other reasonable criteria, as determined by the
23 public university campus.

24 (d) Each public university campus shall determine grant
25 renewal criteria consistent with the requirements under this
26 Section.

1 (e) Each participating public university campus shall post
2 on its Internet website criteria and eligibility requirements
3 for receiving awards that use funds under this Section that
4 include a range in the sizes of these individual awards. The
5 criteria and amounts must also be reported to the Commission
6 and the Board of Higher Education, who shall post the
7 information on their respective Internet websites.

8 (f) After enactment of an appropriation for this Program,
9 the Commission shall determine an allocation of funds to each
10 public university in an amount proportionate to the number of
11 undergraduate students who are residents of this State and
12 citizens or eligible noncitizens of the United States and who
13 were enrolled at each public university campus in the previous
14 academic year. All applications must be made to the Commission
15 on or before a date determined by the Commission and on forms
16 that the Commission shall provide to each public university
17 campus. The form of the application and the information
18 required shall be determined by the Commission and shall
19 include, without limitation, the total public university
20 campus funds used to match funds received from the Commission
21 in the previous academic year under this Section, if any, the
22 total enrollment of undergraduate students who are residents of
23 this State from the previous academic year, and any supporting
24 documents as the Commission deems necessary. Each public
25 university campus shall match the amount of funds received by
26 the Commission with financial aid for eligible students.

1 A public university campus is not required to claim its
2 entire allocation. The Commission shall make available to all
3 public universities, on a date determined by the Commission,
4 any unclaimed funds and the funds must be made available to
5 those public university campuses in the proportion determined
6 under this subsection (f), excluding from the calculation those
7 public university campuses not claiming their full
8 allocations.

9 Each public university campus may determine the award
10 amounts for eligible students on an individual or broad basis,
11 but, subject to renewal eligibility, each renewed award may not
12 be less than the amount awarded to the eligible student in his
13 or her first year attending the public university campus.
14 Notwithstanding this limitation, a renewal grant may be reduced
15 due to changes in the student's cost of attendance, including,
16 but not limited to, if a student reduces the number of credit
17 hours in which he or she is enrolled, but remains a full-time
18 student, or switches to a course of study with a lower tuition
19 rate.

20 An eligible applicant awarded grant assistance under this
21 Section is eligible to receive other financial aid. Total grant
22 aid to the student from all sources may not exceed the total
23 cost of attendance at the public university campus.

24 (g) All money allocated to a public university campus under
25 this Section may be used only for financial aid purposes for
26 students attending the public university campus during the

1 academic year, not including summer terms. Notwithstanding any
2 other provision of law to the contrary, any funds received by a
3 public university campus under this Section that are not
4 granted to students in the academic year for which the funds
5 are received may be retained by the public university campus
6 for expenditure on students participating in the Program or
7 students eligible to participate in the Program.

8 (h) Each public university campus that establishes a
9 Program under this Section must annually report to the
10 Commission, on or before a date determined by the Commission,
11 the number of undergraduate students enrolled at that campus
12 who are residents of this State.

13 (i) Each public university campus must report to the
14 Commission the total non-loan financial aid amount given by the
15 public university campus to undergraduate students in the
16 2017-2018 academic year, not including the summer term ~~in~~
17 ~~fiscal year 2018~~. To be eligible to receive funds under the
18 Program, a public university campus may not decrease the total
19 amount of non-loan financial aid it gives to ~~for~~ undergraduate
20 students, not including any funds received from the Commission
21 under this Section or any funds used to match grant awards
22 under this Section, to an amount lower than the reported amount
23 for the 2017-2018 academic year, not including the summer term
24 ~~total non-loan financial aid amount given by the public~~
25 ~~university campus to undergraduate students in fiscal year~~
26 ~~2018, not including any funds received from the Commission~~

1 ~~under this Section or any funds used to match grant awards~~
2 ~~under this Section.~~

3 (j) On or before a date determined by the Commission, each
4 public university campus that participates in the Program under
5 this Section shall annually submit a report to the Commission
6 with all of the following information:

7 (1) The Program's impact on tuition revenue and
8 enrollment goals and increase in access and affordability
9 at the public university campus.

10 (2) Total funds received by the public university
11 campus under the Program.

12 (3) Total non-loan financial aid awarded to
13 undergraduate students attending the public university
14 campus.

15 (4) Total amount of funds matched by the public
16 university campus.

17 (5) Total amount of claimed and unexpended funds
18 retained by the public university campus.

19 (6) The percentage of total financial aid distributed
20 under the Program by the public university campus.

21 (7) The total number of students receiving grants from
22 the public university campus under the Program and those
23 students' grade level, race, gender, income level, family
24 size, Monetary Award Program eligibility, Pell Grant
25 eligibility, and zip code of residence and the amount of
26 each grant award. This information shall include unit

1 record data on those students regarding variables
2 associated with the parameters of the public university's
3 Program, including, but not limited to, a student's ACT or
4 SAT college admissions test score, high school or
5 university cumulative grade point average, or program of
6 study.

7 On or before October 1, 2020 and annually on or before
8 October 1 thereafter, the Commission shall submit a report with
9 the findings under this subsection (j) and any other
10 information regarding the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program to (i)
11 the Governor, (ii) the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
12 (iii) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, (iv)
13 the President of the Senate, and (v) the Minority Leader of the
14 Senate. The reports to the General Assembly shall be filed with
15 the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of
16 the Senate in electronic form only, in the manner that the
17 Clerk and the Secretary shall direct. The Commission's report
18 may not disaggregate data to a level that may disclose
19 personally identifying information of individual students.

20 The sharing and reporting of student data under this
21 subsection (j) must be in accordance with the requirements
22 under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of
23 1974 and the Illinois School Student Records Act. All parties
24 must preserve the confidentiality of the information as
25 required by law. The names of the grant recipients under this
26 Section are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of

1 Information Act.

2 Public university campuses that fail to submit a report
3 under this subsection (j) or that fail to adhere to any other
4 requirements under this Section may not be eligible for
5 distribution of funds under the Program for the next academic
6 year, but may be eligible for distribution of funds for each
7 academic year thereafter.

8 (k) The Commission shall adopt rules to implement this
9 Section.

10 (l) This Section is repealed on October 1, 2024.

11 (Source: P.A. 100-587, eff. 6-4-18; 100-1015, eff. 8-21-18;
12 100-1183, eff. 4-4-19; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect June 1,
14 2020.