



Sen. Omar Aquino

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LRB101 10646 AXK 59349 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2091

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 2091, AS AMENDED,  
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the  
4 following:

5 "Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
6 amended by adding Section 65.105 as follows:

7 (110 ILCS 947/65.105 new)

8 Sec. 65.105. Early Childhood Workforce Free College grant  
9 program.

10 (a) In this Section:

11 "Child care or early childhood education setting" means a  
12 facility licensed under the Child Care Act of 1969, a licensed  
13 or license-exempt child care provider under Section 9A-11 of  
14 the Illinois Public Aid Code, a federal Head Start or Early  
15 Head Start program, or a preschool program funded under Section  
16 2-3.71 of the School Code.

1       "Child care worker" means an Illinois resident who has been  
2 working in any child care or early childhood education setting  
3 for at least 2 years or, at some point during the last 5 years,  
4 worked in such a setting for the equivalent of 2 years.

5       "Early childhood degree program" means a regionally  
6 accredited degree program administered solely through an  
7 Illinois-based, not-for-profit organization or through a  
8 public institution through which a child care worker may take a  
9 curriculum of courses leading to a Child Development  
10 certificate or associate degree (CDA), an associate or  
11 bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE), or a  
12 Professional Educator License (PEL).

13       "Public institution" means the University of Illinois,  
14 Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University,  
15 Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University,  
16 Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University,  
17 Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, any  
18 public community college in this State, or any other public  
19 university, college, or community college now or hereafter  
20 established or authorized by the General Assembly.

21       "Student aid" means a scholarship or grant, other than an  
22 Early Childhood Workforce Free College grant created under this  
23 Section, awarded to a student from any source that does not  
24 require repayment. "Student aid" does not include student loans  
25 and work-study awards.

26       (b) Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, subject to

1 appropriation, the Commission shall implement and administer a  
2 program to award Early Childhood Workforce Free College grants  
3 to all eligible child care workers seeking a Child Development  
4 certificate or associate degree, an associate or bachelor's  
5 degree in ECE, or a PEL from a public institution or an online  
6 early childhood degree program or seeking to enroll in an  
7 alternative educator licensure program under Section 21B-50 of  
8 the School Code. All of the following terms and conditions  
9 shall apply to the program:

10 (1) To be eligible for a grant, a student must (i)  
11 possess a high school diploma or a high school equivalency  
12 certificate, (ii) be admitted to and enrolled in a public  
13 institution or an early childhood degree program, and (iii)  
14 have an individually adjusted gross income equal to or less  
15 than \$85,000.

16 (2) Students applying for a grant must annually  
17 complete the Early Childhood Education Workforce Free  
18 College grant application. A student who has the capacity  
19 to draw federal student aid shall complete the Free  
20 Application for Federal Student Aid each academic year in  
21 which he or she seeks to receive a grant.

22 (3) To continue to receive a grant, a student must  
23 maintain Illinois residency.

24 (4) Each academic year, a grant shall be equal to the  
25 cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the public  
26 institution or early childhood degree program attended,

1       less all other student aid. However, if a student chooses  
2       to enroll in a private institution, the grant shall be no  
3       more than 150% of the highest rate paid on behalf of  
4       students in a similar program at a public institution to  
5       cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees, less all  
6       other student aid. Student aid shall be credited first to  
7       the student's tuition and mandatory fees. Eligible  
8       students who receive student aid exceeding their tuition  
9       cost and mandatory fees and demonstrate additional need  
10       shall be eligible to receive additional financial support,  
11       including, but not limited to, funds for the purchase of  
12       required books and supplies, lab fees, and activity fees,  
13       through procedures set forth in rules adopted by the  
14       Commission. Each public institution or early childhood  
15       degree program must annually report to the Commission its  
16       undergraduate tuition rate for Illinois residents.

17       (5) A student is eligible for a grant and any grant  
18       renewals until he or she has earned a bachelor's degree in  
19       ECE or a Professional Educator License.

20       (6) After completion of or disenrolling from his or her  
21       program of study, the student must reside and work within  
22       this State in a child care or early childhood education  
23       setting for a minimum of one year. If the student does not  
24       reside and work within this State for a minimum of one  
25       year, the student must repay the total grant amount awarded  
26       to him or her through installments in accordance with rules

1       adopted by the Commission.

2       Exceptions to the qualification requirements under  
3 paragraphs (1) through (6) of this subsection must be made by  
4 the Commission for extenuating circumstances, as provided in  
5 rules adopted by the Commission, with advice from the Early  
6 Childhood Workforce Free College Advisory Committee created  
7 under subsection (e).

8       (c) In awarding grants under this Section, if, in any  
9 fiscal year, the amount appropriated for the grants is less  
10 than the amount determined necessary to cover the cost of  
11 attendance for all eligible applicants, the Commission must  
12 proportionately reduce the grants.

13       (d) The Early Childhood Workforce Free College Fund is  
14 created as a special fund in the State treasury. The Fund shall  
15 consist of money appropriated by the General Assembly and any  
16 gifts, bequests, or donations made to the Fund. All money in  
17 the Fund shall be used only by the Commission for the purposes  
18 of this Section.

19       (e) The Illinois Early Learning Council must establish the  
20 Early Childhood Workforce Free College Advisory Committee for  
21 the purpose of advising the Commission on all matters related  
22 to the Early Childhood Workforce Free College grant program.  
23 The Advisory Committee must be comprised of all of the  
24 following members, appointed by the Illinois Early Learning  
25 Council:

26       (1) One representative each from the Governor's Office

1 of Early Childhood Development, the Illinois Community  
2 College Board, and the Board of Higher Education, one of  
3 whom shall serve as a chairperson, and the remaining  
4 members shall be ex officio and nonvoting members.

5 (2) Eight members as follows:

6 (A) one member who is a preschool teacher at a  
7 public school;

8 (B) one member who is a child care center preschool  
9 teacher;

10 (C) one member who is a child care center infant or  
11 toddler teacher;

12 (D) one member who is a child care center or early  
13 learning teacher's assistant at a public school;

14 (E) one member who is a home child care provider  
15 through the Department of Human Services' Child Care  
16 Assistance Program;

17 (F) one member representing statewide trade or  
18 labor unions;

19 (G) one member representing organizations engaging  
20 in advocacy of the early childhood workforce; and

21 (H) one member who is an administrator of federal  
22 Head Start grant program funds, State preschool funds,  
23 or site-administered grants under the Child Care  
24 Assistance Program.

25 Appointed members of the Advisory Committee, other than  
26 initial appointees, shall serve for a term of 3 years or until

1 a replacement is named. All initial members shall be appointed  
2 no later than August 1, 2020. Of the initial appointees, 5  
3 members shall serve a term of 2 years and 6 members shall serve  
4 a term of 3 years. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy  
5 occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his or  
6 her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the  
7 remainder of that term. The Advisory Committee shall meet at  
8 least once every 6 months and may meet more frequently at the  
9 call of the chairperson. A simple majority of those appointed  
10 shall constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of a majority  
11 of those present and voting shall be necessary for Advisory  
12 Committee action. Members of the Advisory Committee shall  
13 receive no compensation for their services, but may be  
14 reimbursed for their expenses incurred in performing their  
15 duties from funds appropriated to the Commission for that  
16 purpose. Administrative and other support to the Advisory  
17 Committee shall be provided by the Illinois Early Learning  
18 Council.

19 The Advisory Committee shall do all of the following:

20 (1) Study and make recommendations to the Commission  
21 that are related to the implementation of the Early  
22 Childhood Workforce Free College grant program.

23 (2) Evaluate data received by the Commission to ensure  
24 the program is at full utilization.

25 (3) Address access issues to the program, including,  
26 but not limited to, geographic, financial, cultural, and

1           workplace settings.

2           Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
3           Section 5.891 as follows:

4           (30 ILCS 105/5.891 new)

5           Sec. 5.891. The Early Childhood Workforce Free College  
6           Fund.

7           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
8           becoming law."