

AN ACT concerning education.

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

Section 5. The Nursing Education Scholarship Law is amended by changing Sections 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 as follows:

(110 ILCS 975/2) (from Ch. 144, par. 2752)

Sec. 2. Legislative finding and declaration of policy. The General Assembly finds and hereby declares that the provision of a higher education leading to an associate degree in nursing, an associate degree in applied sciences in nursing, a hospital-based diploma in nursing, a baccalaureate degree in nursing, a graduate degree in nursing, or a certificate in practical nursing for persons of this State who desire such an education is important to the health, welfare and security of this State and Nation, and consequently is an important public purpose. Many qualified and potential nurses are deterred by financial considerations from pursuing their nursing education, with consequent irreparable loss to the State and Nation of talents vital to health, welfare and security. A system of scholarships, repayment of which may be excused if the individual is employed as a registered professional nurse or a licensed practical nurse after obtaining an associate degree in nursing, associate degree in applied sciences in nursing, hospital-based diploma in nursing, baccalaureate degree in nursing, graduate degree in nursing, or certificate in practical nursing, will enable such individuals to attend approved institutions of their choice in the State, public or private.

(Source: P.A. 92-43, eff. 1-1-02.)

(110 ILCS 975/3) (from Ch. 144, par. 2753)

Sec. 3. Definitions.

The following terms, whenever used or referred to, have the following meanings except where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Board" means the Board of Higher Education created by the Board of Higher Education Act.

(2) "Department" means the Illinois Department of Public Health.

(3) "Approved institution" means a public community college, private junior college, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, or public or private college or university located in this State that has approval by the Department of Professional Regulation for an associate degree in nursing program, associate degree in applied sciences in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program, or certificate in practical nursing program.

(4) "Baccalaureate degree in nursing program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

(5) "Enrollment" means the establishment and maintenance of an individual's status as a student in an approved institution, regardless of the terms used at the institution to describe such status.

(6) "Academic year" means the period of time from September 1 of one year through August 31 of the next year or as otherwise defined by the academic institution.

(7) "Associate degree in nursing program or hospital-based diploma in nursing program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to an associate degree in nursing, associate degree in applied sciences in nursing, or hospital-based diploma in nursing.

(8) "Graduate degree in nursing program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to a master of science degree in nursing or a doctorate of philosophy or doctorate of nursing degree in nursing.

(9) ~~(8)~~ "Director" means the Director of the Illinois

Department of Public Health.

(10) ~~(9)~~ "Accepted for admission" means a student has completed the requirements for entry into an associate degree in nursing program, associate degree in applied sciences in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program, or certificate in practical nursing program at an approved institution, as documented by the institution.

(11) ~~(10)~~ "Fees" means those mandatory charges, in addition to tuition, that all enrolled students must pay, including required course or lab fees.

(12) ~~(11)~~ "Full-time student" means a student enrolled for at least 12 hours per term or as otherwise determined by the academic institution.

(13) ~~(12)~~ "Law" means the Nursing Education Scholarship Law.

(14) ~~(13)~~ "Nursing employment obligation" means employment in this State as a registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse in direct patient care or as a nurse educator in the case of a graduate degree in nursing program recipient for at least one year for each year of scholarship assistance received through the Nursing Education Scholarship Program.

(15) ~~(14)~~ "Part-time student" means a person who is enrolled for at least one-third of the number of hours required per term by a school for its full-time students.

(16) ~~(15)~~ "Practical nursing program" means a program offered by an approved institution leading to a certificate in practical nursing.

(17) ~~(16)~~ "Registered professional nurse" means a person who is currently licensed as a registered professional nurse by the Department of Professional Regulation under the Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act.

(18) ~~(17)~~ "Licensed practical nurse" means a person who is currently licensed as a licensed practical nurse by the Department of Professional Regulation under the Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act.

(19) ~~(18)~~ "School term" means an academic term, such as a semester, quarter, trimester, or number of clock hours, as defined by an approved institution.

(20) ~~(19)~~ "Student in good standing" means a student maintaining a cumulative grade point average equivalent to at least the academic grade of a "C".

(21) ~~(20)~~ "Total and permanent disability" means a physical or mental impairment, disease, or loss of a permanent nature that prevents nursing employment with or without reasonable accommodation. Proof of disability shall be a declaration from the social security administration, Illinois Industrial Commission, Department of Defense, or an insurer authorized to transact business in Illinois who is providing disability insurance coverage to a contractor.

(22) ~~(21)~~ "Tuition" means the established charges of an institution of higher learning for instruction at that institution.

(23) "Nurse educator" means a person who is currently licensed as a registered nurse by the Department of Professional Regulation under the Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act, who has a graduate degree in nursing, and who is employed by an approved academic institution to educate registered nursing students, licensed practical nursing students, and registered nurses pursuing graduate degrees.

(Source: P.A. 92-43, eff. 1-1-02.)

(110 ILCS 975/5) (from Ch. 144, par. 2755)

Sec. 5. Nursing education ~~undergraduate~~ scholarships. Beginning with the fall term of the 2004-2005 ~~2002-2003~~ academic year, the Department, in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by it for this program, shall provide scholarships to individuals selected from among those applicants who qualify for consideration by showing:

(1) that he or she has been a resident of this State for at least one year prior to application, and is a citizen or a lawful permanent resident alien of the United

States;

(2) that he or she is enrolled in or accepted for admission to an associate degree in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program, or practical nursing program at an approved institution; and

(3) that he or she agrees to meet the nursing employment obligation.

If in any year the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of scholarships to be awarded, the Department shall give priority in awarding scholarships:

(A) To ~~to~~ students in the greatest financial need, as shown on a standardized financial needs assessment form used by an approved institution who will pursue their education on a full-time or closest to full-time basis and who already have a certificate in practical nursing, a diploma in nursing, or an associate degree in nursing and are pursuing a higher degree.

(B) To registered nurses pursuing a graduate degree in nursing to pursue employment in an approved institution that educates licensed practical nurses and that educates registered nurses in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs.

Unless otherwise indicated, scholarships shall be awarded to recipients at approved institutions for a period of up to 2 years if the recipient is enrolled in an associate degree in nursing program, up to 3 years if the recipient is enrolled in a hospital-based diploma in nursing program, up to 4 years if the recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree in nursing program, up to 5 years if the recipient is enrolled in a graduate degree in nursing program, and up to one year if the recipient is enrolled in a certificate in practical nursing program. At least 40% ~~50%~~ of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing baccalaureate degrees in nursing, 30% ~~40%~~ of the scholarships awarded shall be for

recipients who are pursuing associate degrees in nursing or a diploma in nursing, ~~and~~ 10% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing a certificate in practical nursing, and 20% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing a graduate degree in nursing.

(Source: P.A. 92-43, eff. 1-1-02.)

(110 ILCS 975/6) (from Ch. 144, par. 2756)

Sec. 6. Nursing requirements for scholarship recipients. Within 12 months after graduation from an associate degree in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program, or certificate in practical nursing program, any recipient who accepted a scholarship under Section 5 shall begin meeting the required nursing employment obligation. In order to defer his or her continuous employment obligation, a recipient must request the deferment in writing from the Department. A recipient shall notify program staff within 30 days if he or she spends up to 4 years in military service before or after graduation. A recipient shall notify program staff within 30 days if he or she is enrolled in an academic program leading to a graduate degree in nursing. If a recipient receives funding through the Nursing Education Scholarship Program for a higher degree, the nursing employment obligation shall be deferred until he or she is no longer enrolled or has graduated. The recipient must begin meeting the required nursing employment obligations no later than 6 months after the end of the deferments.

Any person who fails to fulfill the nursing employment obligation shall pay to the Department an amount equal to the amount of scholarship funds received per year for each unfulfilled year of the nursing employment obligation, together with interest at 7% per year on the unpaid balance. Payment must begin within 6 months following the date of the occurrence initiating the repayment. All repayments must be completed within 6 years from the date of the occurrence

initiating the repayment. However, this obligation may be deferred and re-evaluated every 6 months when the failure to fulfill the nursing employment obligation results from involuntarily leaving the profession due to a decrease in the number of nurses employed in the State or when the failure to fulfill the nursing employment obligation results from total and permanent disability. The repayment obligation shall be excused if the failure to fulfill the nursing employment obligation results from the death or adjudication as incompetent of the person holding the scholarship. No claim for repayment may be filed against the estate of such a decedent or incompetent.

Each person applying for such a scholarship shall be provided with a copy of this Section at the time of application for the benefits of such scholarship.

(Source: P.A. 92-43, eff. 1-1-02.)

(110 ILCS 975/7) (from Ch. 144, par. 2757)

Sec. 7. Amount of scholarships. To determine a scholarship amount, the Department shall consider tuition and fee charges at community colleges and universities statewide and projected living expenses. Using information provided annually by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 75% of the weighted tuition and fees charged by community colleges in Illinois shall be added to the uniform living allowance reported in the weighted Monetary Award Program (MAP) budget to determine the full-time scholarship amount for students pursuing an associate degree or diploma in nursing at an Illinois community college. Scholarship amounts for students pursuing associate, ~~or~~ baccalaureate, or graduate degrees in nursing at a college or university shall include 75% of the weighted tuition and fees charged by public universities in Illinois plus the uniform living allowance reported in the weighted MAP budget. Scholarship amounts for students in practical nursing programs shall include 75% of the average of tuition charges at all practical nursing programs plus the uniform living allowance

reported in the weighted MAP budget. The Department may provide that scholarships shall be on a quarterly or semi-annual basis and shall be contingent upon the student's diligently pursuing nursing studies and being a student in good standing. Scholarship awards may be provided to part-time students; the amount shall be determined by applying the proportion represented by the part-time enrollment to full-time enrollment ratio to the average per-term scholarship amount for a student in the same nursing degree category.

(Source: P.A. 92-43, eff. 1-1-02.)