

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 adding Section 65.95 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.95 new)

7 Sec. 65.95. Need-based grant program.

8 (a) In this Section, "cost of attendance" means the tuition  
9 and fee, room and board, and book and supply costs related to a  
10 student's attendance at a public university.

11 (b) Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, the  
12 Commission shall, each year, consider applications for grant  
13 assistance under this Section. An applicant is eligible for a  
14 grant under this Section if the Commission finds that the  
15 applicant meets all of the following qualifications:

16 (1) He or she is a United States citizen or eligible  
17 noncitizen.

18 (2) He or she is a resident of this State.

19 (3) He or she is enrolled, for at least 15 credit  
20 hours, in a public university and has not earned a  
21 bachelor's degree yet. A grant recipient must submit proof  
22 to the Commission each semester that he or she is still  
23 enrolled in the university.

1           (4) He or she demonstrates financial need, as  
2           determined by the Commission, and his or her household  
3           income is less than the poverty guidelines updated  
4           periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department  
5           of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42  
6           U.S.C. 9902(2).

7           (5) He or she maintains satisfactory academic  
8           progress, as determined by the university.

9           (c) Subject to appropriation, each year the Commission  
10          shall award grants under this Section among applicants  
11          qualified pursuant to subsection (b) of this Section. The  
12          Commission shall receive funding for the grants through  
13          appropriations.

14          (d) Each grant awarded under this Section shall be in an  
15          amount sufficient to pay the cost of attendance at the  
16          university in which the student is enrolled for 2 semesters of  
17          enrollment within an academic year. However, the total amount  
18          of grant assistance awarded by the Commission under this  
19          Section to an individual for any given academic year, when  
20          added to other financial assistance awarded to that individual  
21          for that year, shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the  
22          university at which the student is enrolled. If, in any fiscal  
23          year, the amount appropriated for grants is less than the  
24          amount determined necessary to cover the cost of attendance for  
25          all eligible applicants, then the grants shall be  
26          proportionately reduced accordingly.

1       (e) Payment of any grant under this Section shall be  
2       determined by the Commission. All grant funds distributed in  
3       accordance with this Section shall be paid to the university on  
4       behalf of the recipient.

5       (f) The Commission shall administer the grant program  
6       established by this Section and shall make all necessary and  
7       proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for its  
8       effective implementation.