



Rep. Anna Moeller

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LRB100 02964 MLM 25424 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1256

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 1256 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

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. Bilingual Teachers of Illinois scholarship
8 program.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "Eligible applicant" means a student who is fluent in a
11 language other than English, has graduated from high school or
12 has received a high school equivalency certificate, and has
13 maintained a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5
14 on a 4.0 scale and who, by reason thereof, is entitled to apply
15 for scholarships to be awarded under this Section.

16 "Qualified student" means a person (i) who is a resident of

1 this State and a citizen or permanent resident of the United
2 States; (ii) who, as an eligible applicant, has made a timely
3 application for a bilingual education teacher scholarship
4 under this Section; (iii) who is enrolled on at least a
5 half-time basis at a qualified Illinois institution of higher
6 learning; (iv) who is enrolled in a course of study leading to
7 teacher licensure, including alternative teacher licensure;
8 (v) who maintains a grade point average of no less than 2.5 on
9 a 4.0 scale; and (vi) who continues to advance satisfactorily
10 toward the attainment of a degree.

11 (b) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois
12 students to pursue teaching careers at the preschool,
13 elementary school, or secondary school level, each qualified
14 student shall be awarded a bilingual education teacher
15 scholarship to any qualified Illinois institution of higher
16 learning. However, preference may be given to qualified
17 applicants enrolled at or above the junior level.

18 (c) Each bilingual education teacher scholarship awarded
19 under this Section shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the
20 tuition and fees and room and board costs of the qualified
21 Illinois institution of higher learning at which the recipient
22 is enrolled, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000; except that, in
23 the case of a recipient who does not reside on-campus at the
24 institution at which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the
25 scholarship shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee expenses
26 and a commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000.

1 (d) The total amount of bilingual education teacher
2 scholarship assistance awarded by the Commission under this
3 Section to an individual in any given fiscal year, when added
4 to other financial assistance awarded to that individual for
5 that year, shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the
6 institution at which the student is enrolled. If the amount of
7 a bilingual education teacher scholarship to be awarded to a
8 qualified student as provided in subsection (c) of this Section
9 exceeds the cost of attendance at the institution at which the
10 student is enrolled, the bilingual education teacher
11 scholarship shall be reduced by an amount equal to the amount
12 by which the combined financial assistance available to the
13 student exceeds the cost of attendance.

14 (e) The maximum number of academic terms for which a
15 qualified student can receive bilingual education teacher
16 scholarship assistance shall be 8 semesters or 12 quarters.

17 (f) In any academic year for which an eligible applicant
18 under this Section accepts financial assistance through the
19 Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, as authorized by
20 Section 551 et seq. of the federal Higher Education Act of
21 1965, the applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship
22 assistance awarded under this Section.

23 (g) All applications for bilingual education teacher
24 scholarships to be awarded under this Section shall be made to
25 the Commission on forms that the Commission shall provide for
26 eligible applicants. The form of applications and the

1 information required to be set forth therein shall be
2 determined by the Commission, and the Commission shall require
3 eligible applicants to submit with their applications such
4 supporting documents or recommendations as the Commission
5 deems necessary.

6 (h) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,
7 payment of any bilingual education teacher scholarship awarded
8 under this Section shall be determined by the Commission. All
9 scholarship funds distributed in accordance with this Section
10 shall be paid to the institution and used only for payment of
11 the tuition and fee and room and board expenses incurred by the
12 student in connection with his or her attendance as an
13 undergraduate student at the institution. Any bilingual
14 education teacher scholarship awarded under this Section shall
15 be applicable to 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment. If a
16 qualified student withdraws from enrollment prior to
17 completion of the first semester or quarter for which the
18 bilingual education teacher scholarship is applicable, the
19 institution shall refund to the Commission the full amount of
20 the bilingual education teacher scholarship.

21 (i) The Commission shall administer the Bilingual Teachers
22 of Illinois scholarship program established by this Section and
23 shall make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with
24 this Section for its effective implementation.

25 (j) If an appropriation to the Commission for a given
26 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships under this

1 Section to all qualified students, the Commission shall
2 allocate the appropriation in accordance with this subsection
3 (j). If funds are insufficient to provide all qualified
4 students with a scholarship as authorized by this Section, the
5 Commission shall allocate the available scholarship funds for
6 that fiscal year on the basis of the date the Commission
7 receives a complete application form.

8 (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j) or any
9 other provision of this Section, at least 25% of the funds
10 appropriated for scholarships awarded under this Section in
11 each fiscal year shall be reserved for applicants who earned
12 the State Seal of Biliteracy as a high school graduate. If the
13 Commission does not receive enough applications on or before
14 January 1 of each fiscal year to award 25% of the funds
15 appropriated for these scholarships to applicants who earned
16 the State Seal of Biliteracy, then the Commission may award a
17 portion of the reserved funds to other applicants.

18 (l) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j) or any
19 other provision of this Section, at least 20% of funds
20 appropriated for scholarships awarded under this Section in
21 each fiscal year shall be reserved for applicants who commit to
22 teaching bilingual education at a school district in this State
23 whose annual student enrollment is less than 300,000. If the
24 Commission does not receive enough applications on or before
25 January 1 of each fiscal year to award 20% of the funds
26 appropriated for these scholarships to applicants who commit to

1 teaching bilingual education at a school district in this State
2 whose annual student enrollment is less than 300,000, then the
3 Commission may award a portion of the reserved funds to other
4 applicants.

5 (m) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j) or any
6 other provision of this Section, at least 10% of funds
7 appropriated for scholarships awarded under this Section in
8 each fiscal year shall be reserved for applicants who commit to
9 teaching bilingual education in a school district-administered
10 preschool program in this State. If the Commission does not
11 receive enough applications on or before January 1 of each
12 fiscal year to award 10% of the funds appropriated for these
13 scholarships to applicants who commit to teaching bilingual
14 education in a school district-administered preschool program,
15 then the Commission may award a portion of the reserved funds
16 to other applicants.

17 (n) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
18 academic year, each recipient of a bilingual education teacher
19 scholarship awarded under this Section shall be required by the
20 Commission to sign an agreement under which the recipient
21 pledges that, within the one-year period following the
22 termination of the program for which the recipient was awarded
23 a bilingual education teacher scholarship, the recipient (i)
24 shall begin teaching in this State for a period of not less
25 than one year for each year of scholarship assistance he or she
26 was awarded under this Section and (ii) shall, upon request by

1 the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence that he or
2 she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching
3 agreement provided for in this subsection (n).

4 (o) If a recipient of a bilingual education teacher
5 scholarship awarded under this Section fails to fulfill the
6 teaching obligation set forth in subsection (n) of this
7 Section, the Commission shall require the recipient to repay
8 the amount of the scholarships received, prorated according to
9 the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, at a
10 rate of interest equal to 5% and, if applicable, reasonable
11 collection fees. The Commission is authorized to establish
12 rules relating to its collection activities for repayment of
13 scholarships under this Section. All repayments collected
14 under this Section shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller
15 for deposit into the State's General Revenue Fund.

16 (p) A recipient of a bilingual education teacher
17 scholarship shall not be considered in violation of the
18 agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (n) if the
19 recipient (i) enrolls on a full-time basis as a graduate
20 student in a course of study related to the field of teaching
21 at a qualified Illinois institution of higher learning; (ii) is
22 serving, not in excess of 3 years, as a member of the armed
23 services of the United States; (iii) is a person with a
24 temporary total disability for a period of time not to exceed 3
25 years, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified
26 physician; (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time

1 employment as a teacher at an Illinois public, private, or
2 parochial preschool, elementary school, or secondary school
3 that satisfies the criteria set forth in the agreement under
4 subsection (n) of this Section and is able to provide evidence
5 of that fact; (v) becomes a person with a permanent total
6 disability, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified
7 physician; (vi) is taking additional courses, on at least a
8 half-time basis, needed to obtain licensure as a teacher in
9 Illinois; or (vii) is fulfilling teaching requirements
10 associated with other programs administered by the Commission
11 and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a
12 period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.

13 (q) Scholarship recipients under this Section who withdraw
14 from a program of teacher education but remain enrolled in
15 school to continue their postsecondary studies in another
16 academic discipline shall not be required to commence repayment
17 of their bilingual education teacher scholarship so long as
18 they remain enrolled in school on a full-time basis or if they
19 can document for the Commission special circumstances that
20 warrant extension of repayment."