



Rep. Lou Lang

Filed: 5/23/2017

10000HB1316ham001

LRB100 03001 MLM 26441 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1316

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 1316 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. This Act may be referred to as the College
5 Affordability Act.

6 Section 5. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
7 Sections 5.878, 5.879, 5.880, and 5.881 as follows:

8 (30 ILCS 105/5.878 new)

9 Sec. 5.878. The College Affordability Fund.

10 (30 ILCS 105/5.879 new)

11 Sec. 5.879. The Work-Study Fund.

12 (30 ILCS 105/5.880 new)

13 Sec. 5.880. The College Affordability Purchasing Fund.

1 (30 ILCS 105/5.881 new)

2 Sec. 5.881. The Illinois Excellence Fund.

3 Section 10. The Board of Higher Education Act is amended by
4 adding Section 9.36 as follows:

5 (110 ILCS 205/9.36 new)

6 Sec. 9.36. Illinois Excellence Program.

7 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Board shall establish and
8 administer a program, to be called the Illinois Excellence
9 Program, to incentivize the recruitment and retention of
10 promising faculty throughout the Illinois system of higher
11 education through the award of faculty and department incentive
12 grants.

13 The Program shall focus on personnel incentives designed to
14 attract and retain sought-after faculty to the Illinois system
15 of higher education.

16 (b) The Illinois Excellence Fund is created as a special
17 fund in the State treasury. All money in the Fund may be used,
18 subject to appropriation, by the Board of Higher Education for
19 the administration of the Illinois Excellence Program.

20 Section 15. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
21 amended by adding Section 23 as follows:

1 (110 ILCS 947/23 new)

2 Sec. 23. College Affordability programs.

3 (a) In this Section:

4 "Continuous enrollment" means a student has attended
5 classes in the fall and spring semester of a single academic
6 year; enrollment in summer semester or intersession terms is
7 not required.

8 "Public institution" means the University of Illinois,
9 Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University,
10 Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University,
11 Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University,
12 Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, any
13 public community college in this State, or any other public
14 university, college, or community college now or hereafter
15 established or authorized by the General Assembly.

16 "Student aid" means scholarships and grants, other than a
17 College Affordability grant, awarded to the student from any
18 source that does not require repayment and half of a student's
19 federally calculated expected family contribution; "student
20 aid" does not include student loans and work-study awards.

21 (b) The Commission shall implement and administer a
22 program, beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, to award
23 College Affordability grants to all eligible Illinois
24 residents seeking an associate or bachelor's degree, as
25 applicable, from a public institution. The following terms and
26 conditions shall apply to the program:

1 (1) To be eligible for a grant, a student must (i) have
2 been an Illinois resident for at least 2 years immediately
3 prior to applying for a grant, (ii) have graduated from an
4 approved high school with a cumulative grade point average
5 of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent, as
6 determined by the Commission), (iii) have an annual family
7 income of \$125,000 or less, and (iv) be admitted to and
8 enrolled full-time, as an Illinois resident, in a public
9 institution in the fall term after graduating from high
10 school. Exceptions to initial enrollment may be made for
11 extenuating circumstances as provided in rules adopted by
12 the Commission.

13 (2) Students applying for a grant shall complete the
14 College Affordability grant application in their initial
15 semester of enrollment. Students shall complete the Free
16 Application for Federal Student Aid each academic year in
17 which they seek to receive a grant.

18 (3) To continue to receive a grant, a student must
19 maintain Illinois residency, as well as a cumulative grade
20 point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or its
21 equivalent, as determined by the Commission).

22 (4) Each academic year, subject to money appropriated
23 by the General Assembly from the College Affordability
24 Fund, a grant shall be equal to the cost of tuition and
25 mandatory fees at the public institution attended less all
26 other student aid, as determined by the Commission. For the

1 2018-2019 academic year, if grants are awarded under this
2 Section, the total amount of institutional aid awarded
3 directly by a public institution to its students in the
4 form of scholarships, grants, and waivers must be no less
5 than the total amount of such institutional aid awarded by
6 that public institution for the 2017-2018 academic year.
7 For the 2019-2020 academic year and each academic year
8 thereafter for which grants are awarded under this Section,
9 the total amount of institutional aid that must be awarded
10 under this paragraph (4) shall be adjusted for inflation as
11 determined by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban
12 Consumers as determined by the United States Department of
13 Labor. Student aid shall be credited first to the student's
14 tuition and mandatory fees. The amount of the grant may be
15 based on the annual family income of the student, as
16 determined by the Commission, but in no event may a grant
17 exceed \$4,000. Each public institution shall annually
18 report its undergraduate tuition rate for Illinois
19 residents and the number of its undergraduates who are
20 Illinois residents to the Commission.

21 (5) A student awarded a grant who has an approved
22 medical or personal leave of absence from a public
23 institution may continue to receive the grant upon resuming
24 the student's education at the public institution so long
25 as the student continues to meet all applicable eligibility
26 requirements under this Section and as adopted by the

1 Commission. The total of all approved leaves of absence may
2 not exceed 6 months.

3 (6) A student is eligible for a grant until the
4 occurrence of the first of the following events:

5 (A) the student has earned a bachelor's degree; or

6 (B) the sum of the number of years the student has
7 attended a public institution equals 6 years from the
8 date of the student's initial enrollment at a public
9 institution, exclusive of approved leaves of absence,
10 except that no more than 3 of those years may be for
11 attendance at a public community college.

12 (7) Except for a medical or personal leave of absence,
13 as approved by a public institution, a student awarded a
14 grant under this Section shall maintain continuous
15 enrollment at a public institution.

16 (8) A student awarded a grant under this Section shall
17 participate in a student loan counseling program through
18 the Commission. This program may be completed online.

19 (c) In awarding grants under this Section, the Commission
20 shall, by rule, develop the selection and renewal criteria for
21 students.

22 (d) Prior to receiving grant assistance for any academic
23 year, each recipient of a grant awarded under this Section
24 shall be required by the Commission to sign an agreement under
25 which the recipient pledges that, beginning within the one-year
26 period following the termination of the academic program for

1 which the recipient was awarded a grant, the recipient shall
2 reside in this State for a period of not less than 2 years. If
3 the recipient is 26 years old or younger, his or her parent or
4 guardian must also sign the agreement, agreeing to repay any
5 amounts that the recipient does not repay under subsection (e)
6 of this Section. Each recipient shall, upon request of the
7 Commission, provide the Commission with evidence that he or she
8 is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the agreement
9 provided for in this subsection (d).

10 (e) If a recipient of a grant awarded under this Section
11 fails to fulfill the residency obligation set forth in
12 subsection (d) of this Section, the Commission shall require
13 the recipient to repay, without interest, the amount of the
14 grants received, prorated according to the fraction of the
15 obligation not completed, and, if applicable, reasonable
16 collection fees. The Commission shall allow the recipient to
17 repay one-tenth of the amount owed each year for 10 years. The
18 Commission is authorized to establish rules relating to its
19 collection activities for repayment of grants under this
20 Section.

21 (f) A recipient of a grant awarded by the Commission under
22 this Section is not in violation of the agreement entered into
23 pursuant to subsection (d) of this Section if the recipient (i)
24 is serving as a member of the armed services of the United
25 States; (ii) is enrolled in a graduate program following
26 graduation from a public university; (iii) is temporarily

1 totally disabled, as established by sworn affidavit of a
2 qualified physician; or (iv) cannot fulfill the residency
3 obligation due to his or her death, disability, or
4 incompetency, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified
5 physician. No claim for repayment may be filed against the
6 estate of such a decedent or incompetent. Any extension of the
7 period during which the residency requirement must be fulfilled
8 is subject to limitations of duration as established by the
9 Commission.

10 (g) The College Affordability Fund is created as a special
11 fund in the State treasury. The Fund shall consist of money
12 appropriated by the General Assembly and any gifts, bequests,
13 or donations made to the Fund. All money in the Fund shall only
14 be used, subject to appropriation, by the Commission for the
15 purposes of awarding grants under this Section.

16 (h) Subject to appropriation from the Work-Study Fund, the
17 Commission shall implement and administer a program in which
18 the Commission shall award work-study stipends to applicants
19 who are recipients of grants under this Section and who agree
20 to work for 5 to 15 hours per week as peer mentors or tutors for
21 other grant recipients under this Section under a work-study
22 program established by the public institution. Eligibility for
23 a stipend shall be based on the applicant's merit and the
24 amount appropriated in a given fiscal year. The Commission
25 shall establish an annual deadline for applying for a stipend.

26 The Work-Study Fund is created as a special fund in the

1 State treasury. All money in the Fund shall be used, subject to
2 appropriation, by the Commission for the purposes of this
3 subsection (h).

4 (i) Subject to appropriation from the College
5 Affordability Purchasing Fund, the Commission shall implement
6 and administer a program in which the Commission shall buy out
7 the private student loans of any eligible participant that the
8 eligible participant incurred to attend a public institution.
9 The Commission may establish its own separate repayment
10 conditions, but the Commission must set a 0% interest rate on
11 any loans it buys out. In order to be eligible to participate
12 in the program established under this subsection (i), the
13 participant (1) must have graduated from a public institution
14 before the start of the 2018-2019 academic year with a
15 cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
16 (or its equivalent, as determined by the Commission) and (2)
17 must be currently repaying any federal student loans incurred
18 to attend a public institution on an income-based repayment
19 plan.

20 The College Affordability Purchasing Fund is created as a
21 special fund in the State treasury. All money in the Fund shall
22 be used, subject to appropriation, by the Commission for the
23 purposes of this subsection (i).

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
25 2018, except that Section 15 and this Section take effect upon

1 becoming law.".