

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Tuition Reduction Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative intent.

7 (a) The General Assembly recognizes that this State's
8 higher education system plays a critical role in ensuring this
9 State's continued leadership role in driving economic
10 prosperity, innovation, and opportunity. By educating citizens
11 for living wage jobs, producing world-class research, and
12 helping to create vibrant communities, this State's
13 institutions of higher education form a foundational component
14 in ensuring prosperity for our citizens.

15 (b) The General Assembly also recognizes the importance of
16 prioritizing scarce resources for the core, front-line
17 services that higher education institutions provide, namely
18 instruction, research, and robust financial aid. During times
19 of economic downturn, policymakers must focus on those areas of
20 public service that have the most direct and immediate impact
21 on students. Keeping class sections open, attracting the best
22 professors and instructors, providing comprehensive support
23 services, and offering meaningful financial help to offset the

1 costs of attending college must be the main concerns of
2 policymakers. It is for these reasons that the General Assembly
3 intends to refocus its commitment to direct aid to students and
4 continue efforts to make college more affordable.

5 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

6 "Student" means a full-time resident undergraduate student
7 enrolled at a university.

8 "University" means a public university located in this
9 State.

10 Section 15. Tuition grants.

11 (a) Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, each
12 university must reimburse a portion of the tuition charged to
13 students as provided in this subsection (a). Reimbursement
14 shall be in the form of a grant applied directly to a student's
15 financial aid account. To determine the per-pupil grant amount,
16 the university shall calculate the difference, if any, between
17 the current fiscal year's aggregate appropriations to the
18 university for operations and fiscal year 2002's aggregate
19 appropriations to the university for operations and divide that
20 amount by the number of students enrolled on the tenth day of
21 the previous academic year. Fifty percent of this calculation
22 then equals the per-pupil grant amount, to be awarded to
23 currently enrolled students to reduce their tuition costs.
24 However, if the current fiscal year's aggregate appropriations

1 to the university for operations are equal to or less than
2 fiscal year 2002's aggregate appropriations for operations,
3 then the university is not required to award any grants under
4 this subsection (a) in a given academic year.

5 (b) On or before September 1, 2018 and on or before
6 September 1 each year thereafter, each university shall report
7 updated estimates of the total amount in grants awarded under
8 subsection (a) of this Section in an academic year to the
9 Governor and the appropriate committees of the General
10 Assembly.

11 (c) If the General Assembly increases funding for each
12 university for 4 consecutive years, the Board of Higher
13 Education shall report to the General Assembly on whether or
14 not this Act should be repealed.

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
16 becoming law.