



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

SB2846

Introduced 2/13/2018, by Sen. Cristina Castro

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 505/8

from Ch. 23, par. 5008

Amends the Children and Family Services Act. Makes post-secondary education tuition and fee waivers available to youth for whom the Department of Children and Family Services has court-ordered legal responsibility, youth who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or youth formerly under care who have been adopted and were the subject of an adoption assistance agreement or who have been placed in private guardianship and were the subject of a subsidized guardianship agreement. Requires applicants to have earned a high school diploma from an accredited institution or a high school equivalency certificate or have met the State criteria for high school graduation before the start of the school year for which they are applying for the waivers. Limits the tuition and fee waivers to persons under the age of 26 and provides that waivers shall be available to a student for at least the first 5 years the student is enrolled in a community college, university, or college maintained by the State. Provides that the age requirement and 5-year cap on tuition and fee waivers shall be waived and eligibility extended for applicants or students who were unable to enroll in a qualifying post-secondary school or complete an academic term because the student: (i) was called into active duty with the United States Armed Forces; (ii) was deployed for service in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; or (iii) volunteered in the Peace Corps or the AmeriCorps. Permits the Department to provide the student with a stipend to cover maintenance and school expenses during the academic years to supplement the student's earnings. Requires the Department to develop outreach programs to ensure qualifying youths are aware of the availability of the tuition and fee waivers.

LRB100 18458 KTG 33673 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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

4 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended
5 by changing Section 8 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/8) (from Ch. 23, par. 5008)

7 Sec. 8. Scholarships and fee waivers; tuition waiver.

8 (a) Each year the Department shall select a minimum of 53
9 students (at least 4 of whom shall be children of veterans) to
10 receive scholarships and fee waivers which will enable them to
11 attend and complete their post-secondary education at a
12 community college, university, or college. Youth shall be
13 selected from among the youth for whom the Department has
14 court-ordered legal responsibility, youth who aged out of care
15 at age 18 or older, or youth formerly under care who have been
16 adopted or who have been placed in private guardianship.
17 Recipients must have earned a high school diploma from an
18 accredited institution or a high school equivalency
19 certificate or diploma or have met the State criteria for high
20 school graduation before the start of the school year for which
21 they are applying for the scholarship and waiver. Scholarships
22 and fee waivers shall be available to students for at least 5
23 years, provided they are continuing to work toward graduation.

1 Unused scholarship dollars and fee waivers shall be reallocated
2 to new recipients. No later than January 1, 2015, the
3 Department shall promulgate rules identifying the criteria for
4 "continuing to work toward graduation" and for reallocating
5 unused scholarships and fee waivers. Selection shall be made on
6 the basis of several factors, including, but not limited to,
7 scholastic record, aptitude, and general interest in higher
8 education. The selection committee shall include at least 2
9 individuals formerly under the care of the Department who have
10 completed their post-secondary education. In accordance with
11 this Act, tuition scholarships and fee waivers shall be
12 available to such students at any university or college
13 maintained by the State of Illinois. The Department shall
14 provide maintenance and school expenses, except tuition and
15 fees, during the academic years to supplement the students'
16 earnings or other resources so long as they consistently
17 maintain scholastic records which are acceptable to their
18 schools and to the Department. Students may attend other
19 colleges and universities, if scholarships are awarded them,
20 and receive the same benefits for maintenance and other
21 expenses as those students attending any Illinois State
22 community college, university, or college under this Section.
23 Beginning with recipients receiving scholarships and waivers
24 in August 2014, the Department shall collect data and report
25 annually to the General Assembly on measures of success,
26 including (i) the number of youth applying for and receiving

1 scholarships or waivers, (ii) the percentage of scholarship or
2 waiver recipients who complete their college or university
3 degree within 5 years, (iii) the average length of time it
4 takes for scholarship or waiver recipients to complete their
5 college or university degree, (iv) the reasons that scholarship
6 or waiver recipients are discharged or fail to complete their
7 college or university degree, (v) when available, youths'
8 outcomes 5 years and 10 years after being awarded the
9 scholarships or waivers, and (vi) budget allocations for
10 maintenance and school expenses incurred by the Department.

11 (b) Youth who are not selected to receive a scholarship or
12 fee waiver under subsection (a) shall receive a waiver of all
13 tuition and fees to attend and complete their post-secondary
14 education at any community college, university, or college
15 maintained by the State of Illinois if they are youth for whom
16 the Department has court-ordered legal responsibility, youth
17 who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or youth formerly
18 under care who have been adopted and were the subject of an
19 adoption assistance agreement or who have been placed in
20 private guardianship and were the subject of a subsidized
21 guardianship agreement.

22 Applicants for the tuition and fee waivers provided under
23 this subsection must have earned a high school diploma from an
24 accredited institution or a high school equivalency
25 certificate or have met the State criteria for high school
26 graduation before the start of the school year for which they

1 are applying for the waivers. Applicants must enroll in a
2 qualifying post-secondary education before they reach the age
3 of 26.

4 Tuition and fee waivers shall be available to a student for
5 at least the first 5 years the student is enrolled in a
6 community college, university, or college maintained by the
7 State of Illinois so long as the student makes satisfactory
8 progress toward completing his or her degree. The age
9 requirement and 5-year cap on tuition and fee waivers under
10 this subsection shall be waived and eligibility for tuition and
11 fee waivers shall be extended for any applicant or student who
12 the Department determines was unable to enroll in a qualifying
13 post-secondary school or complete an academic term because the
14 applicant or student: (i) was called into active duty with the
15 United States Armed Forces; (ii) was deployed for service in
16 the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; or
17 (iii) volunteered in the Peace Corps or the AmeriCorps. The
18 Department shall extend eligibility for a qualifying applicant
19 or student by the total number of months or years during which
20 the applicant or student served on active duty with the United
21 States Armed Forces, was deployed for service in the United
22 States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, or
23 volunteered in the Peace Corps or the AmeriCorps. The number of
24 months an applicant or student served on active duty with the
25 United States Armed Forces shall be rounded up to the next
26 higher year to determine the maximum length of time to extend

1 eligibility for the applicant or student.

2 The Department may provide the student with a stipend to
3 cover maintenance and school expenses, except tuition and fees,
4 during the academic years to supplement the student's earnings
5 or other resources so long as the student consistently
6 maintains scholastic records which are acceptable to the
7 student's school and to the Department.

8 The Department shall develop outreach programs to ensure
9 that youths who qualify for the tuition and fee waivers under
10 this subsection who are high school students in grades 9
11 through 12 or who are enrolled in a high school equivalency
12 testing program are aware of the availability of the tuition
13 and fee waivers.

14 (Source: P.A. 98-718, eff. 1-1-15; 98-805, eff. 1-1-15; 99-78,
15 eff. 7-20-15.)