

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 Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
5 amended by adding Section 65.105 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.105 new)

7 Sec. 65.105. Grant for high risk students formerly in the  
8 care of the Department of Children and Family Services.

9 (a) Subject to the appropriation of funds for this purpose,  
10 the Commission shall each year receive and consider  
11 applications for grant assistance under this Section. An  
12 applicant is eligible for a grant under this Section if the  
13 Commission finds that the applicant:

14 (1) is a youth for whom the Department of Children and  
15 Family Services has court-ordered legal responsibility, a  
16 youth who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or a youth  
17 formerly under care who has been adopted and was the  
18 subject of an adoption assistance agreement or who has been  
19 placed in private guardianship and was the subject of a  
20 subsidized guardianship agreement;

21 (2) will have earned a high school diploma from an  
22 accredited institution or a high school equivalency  
23 certificate or will have met the State criteria for high

1 school graduation, before the start of the academic year  
2 for which the student is applying for the grant;

3 (3) if enrolling as a first-time freshman, has not yet  
4 reached the age of 26; and

5 (4) will be, at the time of the payment of the grant,  
6 enrolled in an Illinois public university or community  
7 college.

8 (b) An applicant who is determined to be eligible for  
9 assistance under this Section shall receive, subject to  
10 appropriation, a grant to be applied to the applicant's tuition  
11 and fees and paid directly to the public institution of higher  
12 learning at which the applicant is enrolled. The amount of the  
13 grant shall be sufficient to pay the institution's tuition and  
14 fee costs that remain after applying any Monetary Award Program  
15 grant and federal Pell Grant to the student's account.

16 (c) A grant awarded under this Section may be renewed for a  
17 total of up to 5 years of full-time enrollment at a public  
18 institution of higher learning, including summer terms, so long  
19 as the student makes satisfactory progress toward completing  
20 his or her undergraduate degree. The age requirement and 5-year  
21 cap on grants under this Section shall be waived and  
22 eligibility for a grant shall be extended for any applicant or  
23 student whom the Commission determines was unable to enroll in  
24 a public institution of higher learning or complete an academic  
25 term because the applicant or student (i) was called into  
26 active duty with the United States Armed Forces, (ii) was

1 deployed for service in the United States Public Health Service  
2 Commissioned Corps, or (iii) volunteered in the Peace Corps or  
3 AmeriCorps. The Commission shall extend eligibility for a  
4 qualifying applicant or student by the total number of months  
5 or years during which the applicant or student served on active  
6 duty with the United States Armed Forces, was deployed for  
7 service in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned  
8 Corps, or volunteered in the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps. The  
9 number of months an applicant or student served on active duty  
10 with the United States Armed Forces shall be rounded up to the  
11 next higher year to determine the maximum length of time to  
12 extend eligibility for the applicant or student.

13 (d) The General Assembly encourages the Commission and the  
14 Department of Children and Family Services to coordinate to  
15 simplify, to the extent feasible, the process of confirming  
16 applicant eligibility for a grant under this Section.

17 (e) The Commission shall adopt rules to implement this  
18 Section.