

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. Legislative intent. It is the intent of this Act
5 to increase enrollment at public 4-year universities in this
6 State by providing those universities with the option for
7 additional funding through a new, merit-based and means-tested
8 matching scholarship for Illinois students. It is also the
9 intent of this Act that any public university participating in
10 this program should, in its best efforts, attempt to delegate
11 scholarship funds amongst a racially diverse range of students
12 and not use a student's race, color, religion, sex (including
13 gender identity, sexual orientation, or pregnancy), national
14 origin, age, disability, or genetic information to disqualify
15 him or her from receiving funds under the program.

16 Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
17 amended by changing Section 10 and adding Section 65.100 as
18 follows:

19 (110 ILCS 947/10)

20 Sec. 10. Definitions. In this Act, and except to the extent
21 that any of the following words or phrases is specifically
22 qualified by its context:

1 "Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance
2 Commission created by this Act.

3 "Enrollment" means the establishment and maintenance of an
4 individual's status as a student in an institution of higher
5 learning, regardless of the terms used at the institution to
6 describe that status.

7 "Approved high school" means any public high school located
8 in this State; and any high school, located in this State or
9 elsewhere (whether designated as a high school, secondary
10 school, academy, preparatory school, or otherwise) which in the
11 judgment of the State Superintendent of Education provides a
12 course of instruction at the secondary level and maintains
13 standards of instruction substantially equivalent to those of
14 the public high schools located in this State.

15 "Institution of higher learning", "qualified institution",
16 or "institution" means an educational organization located in
17 this State which

18 (1) provides at least an organized 2 year program of
19 collegiate grade in the liberal arts or sciences, or both,
20 directly applicable toward the attainment of a
21 baccalaureate degree or a program in health education
22 directly applicable toward the attainment of a
23 certificate, diploma, or an associate degree;

24 (2) either is

25 (A) operated by this State, or

26 (B) operated publicly or privately, not for

1 profit, or

2 (C) operated for profit, provided such for profit
3 organization

4 (i) offers degree programs which have been
5 approved by the Board of Higher Education for a
6 minimum of 3 years under the Academic Degree Act,
7 and

8 (ii) enrolls a majority of its students in such
9 degree programs, and

10 (iii) maintains an accredited status with the
11 Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of
12 the North Central Association of Colleges and
13 Schools;

14 (3) in the judgment of the Commission meets standards
15 substantially equivalent to those of comparable
16 institutions operated by this State; and

17 (4) if so required by the Commission, uses the State as
18 its primary guarantor of student loans made under the
19 federal Higher Education Act of 1965.

20 For otherwise eligible educational organizations which provide
21 academic programs for incarcerated students, the terms
22 "institution of higher learning", "qualified institutions",
23 and "institution" shall specifically exclude academic programs
24 for incarcerated students.

25 "Academic Year" means a 12 month period of time, normally
26 but not exclusively, from September 1 of any year through

1 August 31 of the ensuing year.

2 "Full-time student" means any undergraduate student
3 enrolled in 12 or more semester or quarter hours of credit
4 courses in any given semester or quarter or in the equivalent
5 number of units of registration as determined by the
6 Commission.

7 "Part-time student" means any undergraduate student, other
8 than a full-time student, enrolled in 6 or more semester or
9 quarter hours of credit courses in any given semester or
10 quarter or in the equivalent number of units of registration as
11 determined by the Commission. Beginning with fiscal year 1999,
12 the Commission may, on a program by program basis, expand this
13 definition of "part-time student" to include students who
14 enroll in less than 6 semester or quarter hours of credit
15 courses in any given semester or quarter.

16 "Public university" means any public 4-year university in
17 this State.

18 "Public university campus" means any campus under the
19 governance or supervision of a public university.

20 (Source: P.A. 90-122, eff. 7-17-97; 91-250, eff. 7-22-99.)

21 (110 ILCS 947/65.100 new)

22 Sec. 65.100. AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program.

23 (a) The General Assembly makes all of the following
24 findings:

25 (1) Both access and affordability are important

1 aspects of the Illinois Public Agenda for College and
2 Career Success report.

3 (2) This State is in the top quartile with respect to
4 the percentage of family income needed to pay for college.

5 (3) Research suggests that as loan amounts increase,
6 rather than an increase in grant amounts, the probability
7 of college attendance decreases.

8 (4) There is further research indicating that
9 socioeconomic status may affect the willingness of
10 students to use loans to attend college.

11 (5) Strategic use of tuition discounting can decrease
12 the amount of loans that students must use to pay for
13 tuition.

14 (6) A modest, individually tailored tuition discount
15 can make the difference in a student choosing to attend
16 college and enhance college access for low-income and
17 middle-income families.

18 (7) Even if the federally calculated financial need for
19 college attendance is met, the federally determined
20 Expected Family Contribution can still be a daunting
21 amount.

22 (8) This State is the second largest exporter of
23 students in the country.

24 (9) When talented Illinois students attend
25 universities in this State, the State and those
26 universities benefit.

1 (10) State universities in other states have adopted
2 pricing and incentives that allow many Illinois residents
3 to pay less to attend an out-of-state university than to
4 remain in this State for college.

5 (11) Supporting Illinois student attendance at
6 Illinois public universities can assist in State efforts to
7 maintain and educate a highly trained workforce.

8 (12) Modest tuition discounts that are individually
9 targeted and tailored can result in enhanced revenue for
10 public universities.

11 (13) By increasing a public university's capacity to
12 strategically use tuition discounting, the public
13 university will be capable of creating enhanced tuition
14 revenue by increasing enrollment yields.

15 (b) In this Section:

16 "Eligible applicant" means a student from any high school
17 in this State, whether or not recognized by the State Board of
18 Education, who is engaged in a program of study that in due
19 course will be completed by the end of the school year and who
20 meets all of the qualifications and requirements under this
21 Section.

22 "Tuition and other necessary fees" includes the customary
23 charge for instruction and use of facilities in general and the
24 additional fixed fees charged for specified purposes that are
25 required generally of non-grant recipients for each academic
26 period for which the grant applicant actually enrolls, but does

1 not include fees payable only once or breakage fees and other
2 contingent deposits that are refundable in whole or in part.
3 The Commission may adopt, by rule not inconsistent with this
4 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of
5 tuition and other necessary fees.

6 (c) Beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, each public
7 university may establish a merit-based scholarship pilot
8 program known as the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program. Each year,
9 the Commission shall receive and consider applications from
10 public universities under this Section. Subject to
11 appropriation and any tuition waiver limitation established by
12 the Board of Higher Education, a public university campus may
13 award a grant to a student under this Section if it finds that
14 the applicant meets all of the following criteria:

15 (1) He or she is a resident of this State and a citizen
16 or eligible noncitizen of the United States.

17 (2) He or she files a Free Application for Federal
18 Student Aid and demonstrates financial need with a
19 household income no greater than 6 times the poverty
20 guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by
21 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the
22 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

23 (3) He or she meets the minimum cumulative grade point
24 average or ACT or SAT college admissions test score, as
25 determined by the public university campus.

26 (4) He or she is enrolled in a public university as an

1 undergraduate student on a full-time basis.

2 (5) He or she has not yet received a baccalaureate
3 degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours.

4 (6) He or she is not incarcerated.

5 (7) He or she is not in default on any student loan or
6 does not owe a refund or repayment on any State or federal
7 grant or scholarship.

8 (8) Any other reasonable criteria, as determined by the
9 public university campus.

10 (d) Each public university campus shall determine grant
11 renewal criteria consistent with the requirements under this
12 Section.

13 (e) Each participating public university campus shall post
14 on its Internet website criteria and eligibility requirements
15 for receiving awards that use funds under this Section that
16 includes a range in the sizes of these individual awards. The
17 criteria and amounts must also be reported to the Commission
18 and the Board of Higher Education, who shall post the
19 information on their respective Internet websites.

20 (f) After enactment of an appropriation for this Program,
21 the Commission shall determine an allocation of funds to each
22 public university in an amount proportionate to the number of
23 undergraduate students who are residents of this State and
24 citizens or eligible noncitizens of the United States and who
25 were enrolled at each public university campus in the previous
26 academic year. All applications must be made to the Commission

1 on or before a date determined by the Commission and on forms
2 that the Commission shall provide to each public university
3 campus. The form of the application and the information
4 required shall be determined by the Commission and shall
5 include, without limitation, the total public university
6 campus funds used to match funds received from the Commission
7 in the previous academic year under this Section, if any, the
8 total enrollment of undergraduate students who are residents of
9 this State from the previous academic year, and any supporting
10 documents as the Commission deems necessary. Each public
11 university campus shall match the amount of funds received by
12 the Commission with financial aid for eligible students.

13 A public university campus is not required to claim its
14 entire allocation. The Commission shall make available to all
15 public universities, on a date determined by the Commission,
16 any unclaimed funds and the funds must be made available to
17 those public university campuses in the proportion determined
18 under this subsection (f), excluding from the calculation those
19 public university campuses not claiming their full
20 allocations.

21 Each public university campus may determine the award
22 amounts for eligible students on an individual or broad basis,
23 but, subject to renewal eligibility, each renewed award may not
24 be less than the amount awarded to the eligible student in his
25 or her first year attending the public university campus.
26 Notwithstanding this limitation, a renewal grant may be reduced

1 due to changes in the student's cost of attendance, including,
2 but not limited to, if a student reduces the number of credit
3 hours in which he or she is enrolled, but remains a full-time
4 student, or switches to a course of study with a lower tuition
5 rate.

6 An eligible applicant awarded grant assistance under this
7 Section is eligible to receive other financial aid. Total grant
8 aid to the student from all sources may not exceed the total
9 cost of attendance at the public university campus.

10 (g) All money allocated to a public university campus under
11 this Section may be used only for financial aid purposes for
12 students attending the public university campus during the
13 academic year, not including summer terms. Any funds received
14 by a public university campus under this Section that are not
15 granted to students in the academic year for which the funds
16 are received must be refunded to the Commission before any new
17 funds are received by the public university campus for the next
18 academic year.

19 (h) Each public university campus that establishes a
20 Program under this Section must annually report to the
21 Commission, on or before a date determined by the Commission,
22 the number of undergraduate students enrolled at that campus
23 who are residents of this State.

24 (i) Each public university campus must report to the
25 Commission the total non-loan financial aid amount given by the
26 public university campus to undergraduate students in fiscal

1 year 2018. To be eligible to receive funds under the Program, a
2 public university campus may not decrease the total amount of
3 non-loan financial aid for undergraduate students to an amount
4 lower than the total non-loan financial aid amount given by the
5 public university campus to undergraduate students in fiscal
6 year 2018, not including any funds received from the Commission
7 under this Section or any funds used to match grant awards
8 under this Section.

9 (j) On or before a date determined by the Commission, each
10 public university campus that participates in the Program under
11 this Section shall annually submit a report to the Commission
12 with all of the following information:

13 (1) The Program's impact on tuition revenue and
14 enrollment goals and increase in access and affordability
15 at the public university campus.

16 (2) Total funds received by the public university
17 campus under the Program.

18 (3) Total non-loan financial aid awarded to
19 undergraduate students attending the public university
20 campus.

21 (4) Total amount of funds matched by the public
22 university campus.

23 (5) Total amount of funds refunded to the Commission by
24 the public university campus.

25 (6) The percentage of total financial aid distributed
26 under the Program by the public university campus.

1 (7) The total number of students receiving grants from
2 the public university campus under the Program and those
3 students' grade level, race, gender, income level, family
4 size, Monetary Award Program eligibility, Pell Grant
5 eligibility, and zip code of residence and the amount of
6 each grant award. This information shall include unit
7 record data on those students regarding variables
8 associated with the parameters of the public university's
9 Program, including, but not limited to, a student's ACT or
10 SAT college admissions test score, high school or
11 university cumulative grade point average, or program of
12 study.

13 On or before October 1, 2020 and annually on or before
14 October 1 thereafter, the Commission shall submit a report with
15 the findings under this subsection (j) and any other
16 information regarding the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program to (i)
17 the Governor, (ii) the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
18 (iii) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, (iv)
19 the President of the Senate, and (v) the Minority Leader of the
20 Senate. The reports to the General Assembly shall be filed with
21 the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of
22 the Senate in electronic form only, in the manner that the
23 Clerk and the Secretary shall direct. The Commission's report
24 may not disaggregate data to a level that may disclose
25 personally identifying information of individual students.

26 The sharing and reporting of student data under this

1 subsection (j) must be in accordance with the requirements
2 under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of
3 1974 and the Illinois School Student Records Act. All parties
4 must preserve the confidentiality of the information as
5 required by law. The names of the grant recipients under this
6 Section are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of
7 Information Act.

8 Public university campuses that fail to submit a report
9 under this subsection (j) or that fail to adhere to any other
10 requirements under this Section may not be eligible for
11 distribution of funds under the Program for the next academic
12 year, but may be eligible for distribution of funds for each
13 academic year thereafter.

14 (k) The Commission shall adopt rules to implement this
15 Section.

16 (l) This Section is repealed on October 1, 2024.

17 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
18 becoming law.