

SB3567



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

SB3567

Introduced 2/16/2018, by Sen. Chapin Rose

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/35

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. With regard to the Monetary Award Program, provides that a student who otherwise meets the award renewal requirements under the Program is not required to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid to obtain the renewal of an award. Provides that, beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, a grant awarded to a first-time, full-time freshman of an institution of higher learning shall be guaranteed for renewal until the grant recipient completes a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 credit hours if the recipient otherwise meets the grant renewal requirements and remains enrolled at the same institution of higher learning until the degree or credit hours are completed.

LRB100 20476 AXK 35837 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 the
5 General Assembly that nothing in this Act reduces or eliminates
6 the funding of Monetary Award Program grants by the Illinois
7 Student Assistance Commission for first-time applicants who
8 are not freshmen of an institution of higher learning.

9 Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
10 amended by changing Section 35 as follows:

11 (110 ILCS 947/35)

12 Sec. 35. Monetary award program.

13 (a) The Commission shall, each year, receive and consider
14 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Subject
15 to a separate appropriation for such purposes, an applicant is
16 eligible for a grant under this Section when the Commission
17 finds that the applicant:

18 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or
19 permanent resident of the United States; and

20 (2) in the absence of grant assistance, will be
21 deterred by financial considerations from completing an
22 educational program at the qualified institution of his or

1 her choice.

2 (b) The Commission shall award renewals only upon the
3 student's application and upon the Commission's finding that
4 the applicant:

5 (1) has remained a student in good standing;

6 (2) remains a resident of this State; and

7 (3) is in a financial situation that continues to
8 warrant assistance.

9 A student who meets the requirements under this subsection
10 (b) is not required to file a Free Application for Federal
11 Student Aid to obtain the renewal of an award.

12 (c) All grants shall be applicable only to tuition and
13 necessary fee costs. The Commission shall determine the grant
14 amount for each student, which shall not exceed the smallest of
15 the following amounts:

16 (1) subject to appropriation, \$5,468 for fiscal year
17 2009, \$5,968 for fiscal year 2010, and \$6,468 for fiscal
18 year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, or such lesser
19 amount as the Commission finds to be available, during an
20 academic year;

21 (2) the amount which equals 2 semesters or 3 quarters
22 tuition and other necessary fees required generally by the
23 institution of all full-time undergraduate students; or

24 (3) such amount as the Commission finds to be
25 appropriate in view of the applicant's financial
26 resources.

1 Subject to appropriation, the maximum grant amount for
2 students not subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection (c)
3 must be increased by the same percentage as any increase made
4 by law to the maximum grant amount under subdivision (1) of
5 this subsection (c).

6 "Tuition and other necessary fees" as used in this Section
7 include the customary charge for instruction and use of
8 facilities in general, and the additional fixed fees charged
9 for specified purposes, which are required generally of
10 nongrant recipients for each academic period for which the
11 grant applicant actually enrolls, but do not include fees
12 payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent
13 deposits which are refundable in whole or in part. The
14 Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with this
15 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of
16 tuition and other necessary fees.

17 (d) No applicant, including those presently receiving
18 scholarship assistance under this Act, is eligible for monetary
19 award program consideration under this Act after receiving a
20 baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit
21 hours of award payments.

22 (d-5) Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, a grant
23 awarded under this Section to a first-time, full-time freshman
24 of an institution of higher learning shall be guaranteed for
25 renewal until the grant recipient completes a baccalaureate
26 degree or the equivalent of 135 credit hours if the recipient

1 otherwise meets the renewal requirements under this Section and
2 remains enrolled at the same institution of higher learning
3 until the degree or credit hours are completed.

4 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to
5 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with
6 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The Commission
7 shall notify applicants that grant assistance is contingent
8 upon the availability of appropriated funds.

9 (e-5) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is an
10 important purpose of the Monetary Award Program to facilitate
11 access to college both for students who pursue postsecondary
12 education immediately following high school and for those who
13 pursue postsecondary education later in life, particularly
14 Illinoisans who are dislocated workers with financial need and
15 who are seeking to improve their economic position through
16 education. For the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years, the
17 Commission shall give additional and specific consideration to
18 the needs of dislocated workers with the intent of allowing
19 applicants who are dislocated workers an opportunity to secure
20 financial assistance even if applying later than the general
21 pool of applicants. The Commission's consideration shall
22 include, in determining the number of grants to be offered, an
23 estimate of the resources needed to serve dislocated workers
24 who apply after the Commission initially suspends award
25 announcements for the upcoming regular academic year, but prior
26 to the beginning of that academic year. For the purposes of

1 this subsection (e-5), a dislocated worker is defined as in the
2 federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

3 (f) The Commission may request appropriations for deposit
4 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund. Monies deposited
5 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund may be expended
6 exclusively for one purpose: to make Monetary Award Program
7 grants to eligible students. Amounts on deposit in the Monetary
8 Award Program Reserve Fund may not exceed 2% of the current
9 annual State appropriation for the Monetary Award Program.

10 The purpose of the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund is
11 to enable the Commission each year to assure as many students
12 as possible of their eligibility for a Monetary Award Program
13 grant and to do so before commencement of the academic year.
14 Moneys deposited in this Reserve Fund are intended to enhance
15 the Commission's management of the Monetary Award Program,
16 minimizing the necessity, magnitude, and frequency of
17 adjusting award amounts and ensuring that the annual Monetary
18 Award Program appropriation can be fully utilized.

19 (g) The Commission shall determine the eligibility of and
20 make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit
21 institutions in accordance with the criteria set forth in this
22 Section. The eligibility of applicants enrolled at such
23 for-profit institutions shall be limited as follows:

24 (1) Beginning with the academic year 1997, only to
25 eligible first-time freshmen and first-time transfer
26 students who have attained an associate degree.

1 (2) Beginning with the academic year 1998, only to
2 eligible freshmen students, transfer students who have
3 attained an associate degree, and students who receive a
4 grant under paragraph (1) for the academic year 1997 and
5 whose grants are being renewed for the academic year 1998.

6 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all
7 eligible students.

8 (Source: P.A. 100-477, eff. 9-8-17.)