



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB0901

by Rep. Will Guzzardi

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 105/5.891 new
110 ILCS 947/23 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to implement and administer a program, beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, to award College Promise grants to Illinois residents seeking an associate degree from a public community college or a bachelor's degree from a public university. Provides that a College Promise grant shall be equal to the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the public institution attended less all other student aid, subject to appropriation from the College Promise Fund; defines "student aid". Sets forth the terms and conditions of the program. Amends the State Finance Act to create the College Promise Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Effective immediately.

LRB101 06775 AXK 51802 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 5. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
5 Section 5.891 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.891 new)

7 Sec. 5.891. The College Promise Fund.

8 Section 10. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
9 amended by adding Section 23 as follows:

10 (110 ILCS 947/23 new)

11 Sec. 23. College Promise program.

12 (a) In this Section:

13 "Continuous enrollment" means a student has attended
14 classes in the fall and spring semester of a single academic
15 year; enrollment in summer semester or intersession terms is
16 not required.

17 "Public institution" means the University of Illinois,
18 Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University,
19 Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University,
20 Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University,
21 Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, any

1 public community college in this State, or any other public
2 university, college, or community college now or hereafter
3 established or authorized by the General Assembly.

4 "Student aid" means scholarships and grants, other than a
5 College Promise grant, awarded to a student from any source
6 that does not require repayment; "student aid" does not include
7 student loans and work-study awards.

8 (b) The Commission shall implement and administer a
9 program, beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, to award
10 College Promise grants to all eligible Illinois residents
11 seeking an associate or bachelor's degree, as applicable, from
12 a public institution. The following terms and conditions shall
13 apply to the program:

14 (1) To be eligible for a grant, a student must be
15 admitted to and enrolled full-time, as an Illinois
16 resident, in a public institution in the fall term.
17 Exceptions to initial enrollment may be made for
18 extenuating circumstances as provided in rules adopted by
19 the Commission.

20 (2) Students applying for a grant shall complete the
21 College Promise grant application in their initial year of
22 enrollment. Students shall complete the Free Application
23 for Federal Student Aid each academic year in which they
24 seek to receive a grant. If a student is ineligible to
25 complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in
26 any academic year, the Board of Higher Education must

1 provide the student with an alternate application or form
2 that contains similar information to be completed by the
3 student.

4 (3) To continue to receive a grant, a student must
5 maintain Illinois residency, as well as satisfactory
6 academic progress as determined by rules adopted by the
7 Commission.

8 (4) Each academic year, subject to money appropriated
9 by the General Assembly from the College Promise Fund, a
10 grant shall be equal to the cost of tuition and mandatory
11 fees at the public institution attended. Student aid shall
12 be credited first to the student's tuition and mandatory
13 fees. Each public institution shall annually report its
14 undergraduate tuition rate for Illinois residents and the
15 number of its undergraduates who are Illinois residents to
16 the Commission.

17 (5) A student awarded a grant who has an approved
18 medical or personal leave of absence from a public
19 institution may continue to receive the grant upon resuming
20 the student's education at the public institution so long
21 as the student continues to meet all applicable eligibility
22 requirements under this Section and as adopted by the
23 Commission. The total of all approved leaves of absence may
24 not exceed 6 months.

25 (6) A student is eligible for a grant until the
26 occurrence of the first of the following events:

1 (A) the student has earned an associate degree if
2 attending a public community college or a bachelor's
3 degree if attending a public university; or

4 (B) the sum of the number of years the student has
5 attended the public community college or public
6 university, as applicable, equals 4 years from the date
7 of the student's initial enrollment at the public
8 community college or 8 years from the date of the
9 student's initial enrollment at the public university,
10 exclusive of approved leaves of absence.

11 (7) Except for a medical or personal leave of absence,
12 as approved by the public institution, a student awarded a
13 grant under this Section shall maintain continuous
14 enrollment at the public institution.

15 (c) In awarding grants under this Section, the Commission
16 shall, by rule, develop the selection and renewal criteria for
17 students.

18 (d) The College Promise Fund is created as a special fund
19 in the State treasury. The Fund shall consist of money
20 appropriated by the General Assembly and any gifts, bequests,
21 or donations made to the Fund. All money in the Fund shall only
22 be used, subject to appropriation, by the Commission for the
23 purposes of this Section.

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
25 becoming law.