

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2019 and 2020 HB2685

by Rep. Carol Ammons

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act 15 ILCS 520/22.5 110 ILCS 992/1-5

from Ch. 130, par. 41a

Creates the Illinois Student Loan Investment Act. Provides for the establishment, operation, and administration of the Student Investment Account by the State Treasurer. Provides that the State Treasurer shall establish fees to cover the costs of administration, recordkeeping, marketing, and investment management related to the Student Investment Account. Provides that the State Treasurer may charge and collect insurance premiums and deduct wages under the Act. Requires the State Treasurer to develop, publish, and implement one or more investment policies covering the investment of moneys under the Act. Provides for the creation and use of specified Funds to be held outside of the State Treasury with the State Treasurer as custodian. Provides for the adoption of rules. Amends the Deposit of State Moneys Act. Allows the State Treasurer to invest or reinvest State money in, among other items or purposes, investments made in accordance with the Student Loan Investment Act. Amends the Student Loan Servicing Rights Act. Provides that the term "student loan servicer" shall not include, among other entities, the State Treasurer and its agents when the agents are acting on the State Treasurer's behalf. Defines terms. Effective immediately.

LRB101 09685 RJF 54784 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT MAY APPLY

1 AN ACT concerning finance.

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

- Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Student Loan Investment Act.
- 6 Section 5. Findings and purpose. The General Assembly finds 7 that it is vital for the State to combat the college-debt 8 crisis and increase access to post-secondary education for all 9 residents of this State. The purpose of this Act is to assist qualified residents to attend and pay for post-secondary 10 education through a system of investment programs, which may 11 12 include income-sharing agreements, linked deposits, and 13 origination and refinancing of student loans.
- 14 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:
- "Borrower" means an Illinois resident student who has received an education loan or an Illinois resident parent who has received or agreed to pay an education loan, subject to approval by the State Treasurer.
- "Education loan" means a loan made to a borrower in accordance with this Act to finance an Illinois resident student's attendance at an institution of higher education.
- 22 "Education loan" also includes Income Share Agreements.

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- "Income share agreement" means an agreement between a borrower and an eligible lender approved by the State Treasurer in which the borrower agrees to pay a percentage of the borrower's future earnings for a fixed period in exchange for funds to pay for their post-secondary education.
- "Institution of higher education" means a post-secondary educational institution located in Illinois and approved by the State Treasurer.
- 9 "Student Investment Account" means that portion of the 10 Treasurer's State Investment Portfolio described in Section 15 11 this Act.
 - Section 15. Establishment of Student Investment Account. The State Treasurer may allocate up to 5% of the Treasurer's State Investment Portfolio (State Investment Portfolio) to the Student Investment Account. The 5% cap shall be calculated based on: (1) the balance of the State Investment Portfolio at the inception of the State's fiscal year; or (2) the average balance of the State Investment Portfolio in the immediately preceding 5 fiscal years, whichever number is greater. Earnings on the investments in the Student Investment Account may be reinvested into the Student Investment Account without being counted against the 5% cap.
- Section 20. Operation of the Student Investment Account.

 The State Treasurer may: originate, guarantee, acquire, and

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service education loans; facilitate such arrangements between borrowers and eligible lenders; and perform such other acts as may be necessary or desirable in connection with the education loans. The State Treasurer may receive, hold, and invest moneys paid into the Student Investment Account and take such other actions as are necessary to operate the Student Investment Account. The State Treasurer may invest in, and enter into contracts with, institutions that provide education loans. The State Treasurer may also: enter into Income Share Agreements with borrowers; facilitate such arrangements between borrowers and eligible lenders; and perform such other acts as may be necessary or desirable in connection with such Income Share Agreements. The State Treasurer may also deposit funds with financial institutions that provide education loans.

Section 25. Administration of the Student Investment Account. The State Treasurer may enter into such contracts and guarantee agreements as are necessary to operate the Student Investment Account with eligible lenders, institutions, institutions of higher education, individuals, corporations, and qualified loan origination and servicing organizations and with any governmental entity and with any agency or instrumentality of the United States. The State is authorized to establish specific criteria governing the eligibility of entities to participate in its programs, the making of education loans, provisions

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- default, the establishment of default reserve funds, the
- 2 purchase of default insurance, the provision of prudent debt
- 3 service reserves, and the furnishing by participating entities
- 4 of such additional guarantees of the education loans as the
- 5 State Treasurer shall determine.

by the State Treasurer.

6 Section 30. Fees. The State Treasurer shall establish fees 7 cover the costs of administration, recordkeeping, marketing, and investment management related to the Student 8 9 Investment Account. The State Treasurer may pay eligible 10 lenders, financial institutions, institutions of 11 individuals, corporations, qualified education, 12 organizations, origination and servicing governmental 1.3 entities, and any agencies or instrumentalities of the United States an administrative fee in connection with services 14 15 provided pursuant to the Student Investment Account in such

Section 35. Insurance. The State Treasurer may charge and collect premiums for insurance on education loans and other related charges and pay such insurance premiums or a portion thereof and other charges as are prudent.

amounts, at such times, and in such manner as may be prescribed

Section 40. Wage deductions. The State Treasurer may deduct from the salary, wages, commissions, and bonuses of any

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employee in this State and, to the extent permitted by the laws of the United States and individual states in which an employee might reside, any employee outside the State of Illinois by serving a notice of administrative wage garnishment on an employer, in accordance with rules adopted by the State Treasurer, for the recovery of an education loan debt owned or serviced by the State Treasurer. Levy must not be made until the State Treasurer has caused a demand to be made on the employee, in a manner consistent with rules adopted by the State Treasurer, such that the employee is provided an opportunity to contest the existence or amount of the education loan obligation.

Section 45. Investment policy. The State Treasurer shall develop, publish, and implement one or more investment policies covering the investment of moneys in accordance with this Act.

Section 50. Student Investment Account Administrative Fund. The Student Investment Account Administrative Fund (Administrative Fund) is created as a special fund outside the State treasury with the State Treasurer as custodian. Moneys in the Administrative Fund may be used by the State Treasurer to pay expenses related to all aspects of operation and administration of the Student Investment Account. The State Treasurer may deposit a portion of the earnings of the investments in the Student Investment Account and a portion of

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- 1 any administrative fees, and the proceeds thereof, collected
- 2 pursuant to Section 30 into the Administrative Fund.
- 3 Section 55. Student Investment Account Loss Reserve Fund. 4 The Student Investment Account Loss Reserve Fund (Loss Reserve 5 Fund) may be created as a special fund outside the State 6 treasury with the State Treasurer as custodian. Moneys in the 7 Loss Reserve Fund may be used by the State Treasurer to establish loss reserve funds. The State Treasurer may deposit a 8 9 portion of the earnings of the investments in the Student 10 Investment Account and a portion of any administrative fees, 11 and the proceeds thereof, collected pursuant to Section 30 into the Loss Reserve Fund. 12
 - Section 60. Student Investment Account Assistance Fund. The Student Investment Account Assistance Fund (Assistance Fund) may be created as a special fund outside the State treasury with the State Treasurer as custodian. Moneys in the Assistance Fund may be used by the State Treasurer to provide assistance to qualifying borrowers. The State Treasurer may deposit a portion of the earnings of the investments in the Student Investment Account and a portion of any administrative fees, and the proceeds thereof, collected pursuant to Section 30 into the Assistance Fund.
 - Section 65. Rules. The State Treasurer may adopt rules he

- or she deems necessary or desirable to implement and administer
- 2 this Act.
- 3 Section 900. The Deposit of State Moneys Act is amended by
- 4 changing Section 22.5 as follows:
- 5 (15 ILCS 520/22.5) (from Ch. 130, par. 41a)
- 6 (For force and effect of certain provisions, see Section 90
- 7 of P.A. 94-79)
- 8 Sec. 22.5. Permitted investments. The State Treasurer may,
- 9 with the approval of the Governor, invest and reinvest any
- 10 State money in the treasury which is not needed for current
- 11 expenditures due or about to become due, in obligations of the
- 12 United States government or its agencies or of National
- 13 Mortgage Associations established by or under the National
- 14 Housing Act, 12 1201 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., or in mortgage
- participation certificates representing undivided interests in
- 16 specified, first-lien conventional residential Illinois
- 17 mortgages that are underwritten, insured, guaranteed, or
- 18 purchased by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or in
- 19 Affordable Housing Program Trust Fund Bonds or Notes as defined
- in and issued pursuant to the Illinois Housing Development Act.
- 21 All such obligations shall be considered as cash and may be
- 22 delivered over as cash by a State Treasurer to his successor.
- The State Treasurer may, with the approval of the Governor,
- 24 purchase any state bonds with any money in the State Treasury

that has been set aside and held for the payment of the principal of and interest on the bonds. The bonds shall be considered as cash and may be delivered over as cash by the State Treasurer to his successor.

The State Treasurer may, with the approval of the Governor, invest or reinvest any State money in the treasury that is not needed for current expenditure due or about to become due, or any money in the State Treasury that has been set aside and held for the payment of the principal of and the interest on any State bonds, in shares, withdrawable accounts, and investment certificates of savings and building and loan associations, incorporated under the laws of this State or any other state or under the laws of the United States; provided, however, that investments may be made only in those savings and loan or building and loan associations the shares and withdrawable accounts or other forms of investment securities of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The State Treasurer may not invest State money in any savings and loan or building and loan association unless a commitment by the savings and loan (or building and loan) association, executed by the president or chief executive officer of that association, is submitted in the following form:

25 The Savings and Loan (or Building and Loan) Association pledges not to reject arbitrarily

mortgage loans for residential properties within any specific part of the community served by the savings and loan (or building and loan) association because of the location of the property. The savings and loan (or building and loan) association also pledges to make loans available on low and moderate income residential property throughout the community within the limits of its legal restrictions and prudent financial practices.

The State Treasurer may, with the approval of the Governor, invest or reinvest, at a price not to exceed par, any State money in the treasury that is not needed for current expenditures due or about to become due, or any money in the State Treasury that has been set aside and held for the payment of the principal of and interest on any State bonds, in bonds issued by counties or municipal corporations of the State of Illinois.

The State Treasurer may, with the approval of the Governor, invest or reinvest any State money in the Treasury which is not needed for current expenditure, due or about to become due, or any money in the State Treasury which has been set aside and held for the payment of the principal of and the interest on any State bonds, in participations in loans, the principal of which participation is fully guaranteed by an agency or instrumentality of the United States government; provided, however, that such loan participations are represented by certificates issued only by banks which are incorporated under

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the laws of this State or any other state or under the laws of the United States, and such banks, but not the loan participation certificates, are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Whenever the total amount of vouchers presented to the Comptroller under Section 9 of the State Comptroller Act exceeds the funds available in the General Revenue Fund by \$1,000,000,000 or more, then the State Treasurer may invest any State money in the Treasury, other than money in the General Revenue Fund, Health Insurance Reserve Fund, Attorney General Court Ordered and Voluntary Compliance Payment Projects Fund, Attorney General Whistleblower Reward and Protection Fund, and General's State Projects Court Attorney and Ordered Distribution Fund, which is not needed for expenditures, due or about to become due, or any money in the State Treasury which has been set aside and held for the payment of the principal of and the interest on any State bonds with the Office of the Comptroller in order to enable the Comptroller to pay outstanding vouchers. At any time, and from time to time outstanding, such investment shall not be greater than \$2,000,000,000. Such investment shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund or Health Insurance Reserve Fund as determined by the Comptroller. Such investment shall be repaid by the Comptroller with an interest rate tied to the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) or the Federal Funds Rate or an equivalent market established variable rate, but in no case

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shall such interest rate exceed the lesser of the penalty rate established under the State Prompt Payment Act or the timely pay interest rate under Section 368a of the Illinois Insurance Code. The State Treasurer and the Comptroller shall enter into an intergovernmental agreement to establish procedures for such investments, which market established variable rate to which the interest rate for the investments should be tied, and other terms which the State Treasurer and Comptroller reasonably believe to be mutually beneficial concerning these investments by the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer and Comptroller shall also enter into a written agreement for each such investment that specifies the period of the investment, the payment interval, the interest rate to be paid, the funds in the Treasury from which the Treasurer will draw the investment, and other terms upon which the State Treasurer and Comptroller mutually agree. Such investment agreements shall be public records and the State Treasurer shall post the terms of all such investment agreements on the State Treasurer's official website. In compliance with the intergovernmental agreement, the Comptroller shall order and the State Treasurer shall transfer amounts sufficient for the payment of principal and interest invested by the State Treasurer with the Office of the Comptroller under this paragraph from the General Revenue Fund or the Health Insurance Reserve Fund to the respective funds in the Treasury from which the State Treasurer drew the investment. Public Act 100-1107 This amendatory Act of

100th General Assembly shall constitute an irrevocable and continuing authority for all amounts necessary for the payment of principal and interest on the investments made with the Office of the Comptroller by the State Treasurer under this paragraph, and the irrevocable and continuing authority for and direction to the Comptroller and Treasurer to make the necessary transfers.

The State Treasurer may, with the approval of the Governor, invest or reinvest any State money in the Treasury that is not needed for current expenditure, due or about to become due, or any money in the State Treasury that has been set aside and held for the payment of the principal of and the interest on any State bonds, in any of the following:

- (1) Bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, Treasury bills, or other securities now or hereafter issued that are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America as to principal and interest.
- (2) Bonds, notes, debentures, or other similar obligations of the United States of America, its agencies, and instrumentalities.
- (2.5) Bonds, notes, debentures, or other similar obligations of a foreign government, other than the Republic of the Sudan, that are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of that government as to principal and interest, but only if the foreign government has not defaulted and has met its payment obligations in a timely

- manner on all similar obligations for a period of at least
 years immediately before the time of acquiring those
 obligations.
 - (3) Interest-bearing savings accounts, interest-bearing certificates of deposit, interest-bearing time deposits, or any other investments constituting direct obligations of any bank as defined by the Illinois Banking Act.
 - (4) Interest-bearing accounts, certificates of deposit, or any other investments constituting direct obligations of any savings and loan associations incorporated under the laws of this State or any other state or under the laws of the United States.
 - (5) Dividend-bearing share accounts, share certificate accounts, or class of share accounts of a credit union chartered under the laws of this State or the laws of the United States; provided, however, the principal office of the credit union must be located within the State of Illinois.
 - (6) Bankers' acceptances of banks whose senior obligations are rated in the top 2 rating categories by 2 national rating agencies and maintain that rating during the term of the investment.
 - (7) Short-term obligations of either corporations or limited liability companies organized in the United States with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 if (i) the obligations

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are rated at the time of purchase at one of the 3 highest classifications established by at least 2 standard rating services and mature not later than 270 days from the date of purchase, (ii) the purchases do not exceed 10% of the corporation's or the limited liability company's outstanding obligations, (iii) no more than one-third of public agency's funds are invested in short-term obligations of either corporations or limited liability companies, and (iv) the corporation or the limited liability company has not been placed on the list of restricted companies by the Illinois Investment Policy Board under Section 1-110.16 of the Illinois Pension Code.

(7.5) Obligations of either corporations or limited liability companies organized in the United States, that have a significant presence in this State, with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 if: (i) the obligations are rated at one of the time of purchase at 3 highest the classifications established by at least 2 standard rating services and mature more than 270 days, but less than 5 years, from the date of purchase; (ii) the purchases do not exceed 10% of the corporation's or the limited liability company's outstanding obligations; (iii) no more than 5% of the public agency's funds are invested in such obligations of corporations or limited liability companies; and (iv) the corporation or the limited liability company has not been placed on the list of restricted companies by the

1	Illinois Investment Policy Board under Section 1-110.16 of
2	the Illinois Pension Code. The authorization of the
3	Treasurer to invest in new obligations under this paragraph
4	shall expire on June 30, 2019.

- (8) Money market mutual funds registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, provided that the portfolio of the money market mutual fund is limited to obligations described in this Section and to agreements to repurchase such obligations.
- (9) The Public Treasurers' Investment Pool created under Section 17 of the State Treasurer Act or in a fund managed, operated, and administered by a bank.
- (10) Repurchase agreements of government securities having the meaning set out in the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, subject to the provisions of that Act and the regulations issued thereunder.
- (11) Investments made in accordance with the Technology Development Act.
- (12) Investments made in accordance with the Student Loan Investment Act.
- For purposes of this Section, "agencies" of the United States Government includes:
- (i) the federal land banks, federal intermediate credit banks, banks for cooperatives, federal farm credit banks, or any other entity authorized to issue debt

- obligations under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C.
- 2 2001 et seq.) and Acts amendatory thereto;
- 3 (ii) the federal home loan banks and the federal home
- 4 loan mortgage corporation;
- 5 (iii) the Commodity Credit Corporation; and
- 6 (iv) any other agency created by Act of Congress.
- 7 The Treasurer may, with the approval of the Governor, lend
- 8 any securities acquired under this Act. However, securities may
- 9 be lent under this Section only in accordance with Federal
- 10 Financial Institution Examination Council guidelines and only
- if the securities are collateralized at a level sufficient to
- 12 assure the safety of the securities, taking into account market
- value fluctuation. The securities may be collateralized by cash
- or collateral acceptable under Sections 11 and 11.1.
- 15 (Source: P.A. 99-856, eff. 8-19-16; 100-1107, eff. 8-27-18;
- 16 revised 9-27-18.)
- 17 Section 905. The Student Loan Servicing Rights Act is
- amended by changing Section 1-5 as follows:
- 19 (110 ILCS 992/1-5)
- 20 Sec. 1-5. Definitions. As used in this Act:
- 21 "Applicant" means a person applying for a license pursuant
- 22 to this Act.
- "Borrower" or "student loan borrower" means a person who
- has received or agreed to pay a student loan for his or her own

1	educational	expenses.

- 2 "Cosigner" means a person who has agreed to share
- 3 responsibility for repaying a student loan with a borrower.
- 4 "Department" means the Department of Financial and
- 5 Professional Regulation.
- 6 "Division of Banking" means the Division of Banking of the
- 7 Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.
- 8 "Federal loan borrower eligible for referral to a repayment
- 9 specialist" means a borrower who possesses any of the following
- 10 characteristics:
- 11 (1) requests information related to options to reduce
- or suspend his or her monthly payment;
- 13 (2) indicates that he or she is experiencing or
- 14 anticipates experiencing financial hardship, distress, or
- difficulty making his or her payments;
- 16 (3) has missed 2 consecutive monthly payments;
- 17 (4) is at least 75 days delinquent;
- 18 (5) is enrolled in a discretionary forbearance for more
- than 9 of the previous 12 months;
- 20 (6) has rehabilitated or consolidated one or more loans
- out of default within the past 12 months; or
- 22 (7) has not completed a course of study, as reflected
- in the servicer's records, or the borrower identifies
- 24 himself or herself as not having completed a program of
- 25 study.
- "Federal education loan" means any loan made, guaranteed,

- or insured under Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act
- 2 of 1965.
- 3 "Income-driven payment plan certification" means the
- 4 documentation related to a federal student loan borrower's
- 5 income or financial status the borrower must submit to renew an
- 6 income-driven repayment plan.
- 7 "Income-driven repayment options" includes the
- 8 Income-Contingent Repayment Plan, the Income-Based Repayment
- 9 Plan, the Income-Sensitive Repayment Plan, the Pay As You Earn
- 10 Plan, the Revised Pay As You Earn Plan, and any other federal
- 11 student loan repayment plan that is calculated based on a
- 12 borrower's income.
- "Licensee" means a person licensed pursuant to this Act.
- "Other repayment plans" means the Standard Repayment Plan,
- 15 the Graduated Repayment Plan, the Extended Repayment Plan, or
- any other federal student loan repayment plan not based on a
- 17 borrower's income.
- "Private loan borrower eligible for referral to a repayment
- 19 specialist" means a borrower who possesses any of the following
- 20 characteristics:
- 21 (1) requests information related to options to reduce
- or suspend his or her monthly payments; or
- 23 (2) indicates that he or she is experiencing or
- 24 anticipates experiencing financial hardship, distress, or
- difficulty making his or her payments.
- "Requester" means any borrower or cosigner that submits a

- 1 request for assistance.
- 2 "Request for assistance" means all inquiries, complaints,
- 3 account disputes, and requests for documentation a servicer
- 4 receives from borrowers or cosigners.
- 5 "Secretary" means the Secretary of Financial and
- 6 Professional Regulation, or his or her designee, including the
- 7 Director of the Division of Banking of the Department of
- 8 Financial and Professional Regulation.
- 9 "Servicing" means: (1) receiving any scheduled periodic
- 10 payments from a student loan borrower or cosigner pursuant to
- 11 the terms of a student loan; (2) applying the payments of
- 12 principal and interest and such other payments with respect to
- the amounts received from a student loan borrower or cosigner,
- as may be required pursuant to the terms of a student loan; and
- 15 (3) performing other administrative services with respect to a
- 16 student loan.
- "Student loan" or "loan" means any federal education loan
- or other loan primarily for use to finance a postsecondary
- 19 education and costs of attendance at a postsecondary
- 20 institution, including, but not limited to, tuition, fees,
- 21 books and supplies, room and board, transportation, and
- 22 miscellaneous personal expenses. "Student loan" includes a
- loan made to refinance a student loan.
- "Student loan" shall not include an extension of credit
- 25 under an open-end consumer credit plan, a reverse mortgage
- transaction, a residential mortgage transaction, or any other

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- 1 loan that is secured by real property or a dwelling.
- 2 "Student loan" shall not include an extension of credit
- 3 made by a postsecondary educational institution to a borrower
- 4 if one of the following apply:
- 5 (1) The term of the extension of credit is no longer 6 than the borrower's education program.
 - (2) The remaining, unpaid principal balance of the extension of credit is less than \$1,500 at the time of the borrower's graduation or completion of the program.
 - (3) The borrower fails to graduate or successfully complete his or her education program and has a balance due at the time of his or her disenrollment from the postsecondary institution.
- "Student loan servicer" or "servicer" means any person engaged in the business of servicing student loans.
 - "Student loan servicer" shall not include:
 - (1) a bank, savings bank, savings association, or credit union organized under the laws of the State or any other state or under the laws of the United States;
 - (2) a wholly owned subsidiary of any bank, savings bank, savings association, or credit union organized under the laws of the State or any other state or under the laws of the United States;
 - (3) an operating subsidiary where each owner of the operating subsidiary is wholly owned by the same bank, savings bank, savings association, or credit union

organized under the laws of the State or any other state or under the laws of the United States;

- (4) the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and its agents when the agents are acting on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's behalf:
- (5) a public postsecondary educational institution or a private nonprofit postsecondary educational institution servicing a student loan it extended to the borrower;
- (6) a licensed debt management service under the Debt Management Service Act, except to the extent that the organization acts as a subcontractor, affiliate, or service provider for an entity that is otherwise subject to licensure under this Act;
- (7) any collection agency licensed under the Collection Agency Act that is collecting post-default debt:
- (8) in connection with its responsibilities as a guaranty agency engaged in default aversion, a State or nonprofit private institution or organization having an agreement with the U.S. Secretary of Education under Section 428(b) of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1078(B));
- (9) a State institution or a nonprofit private organization designated by a governmental entity to make or service student loans, provided in each case that the institution or organization services fewer than 20,000

9 becoming law.

1	student loan accounts of borrowers who reside in Illinois;
2	or
3	(10) a law firm or licensed attorney that is collecting
4	post-default debt; or-
5	(11) the State Treasurer and its agents when the agents
6	are acting on the State Treasurer's behalf.
7	(Source: P.A. 100-540, eff. 12-31-18; 100-635, eff. 12-31-18.)
8	Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon