



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB2691

by Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Retention of Illinois Students and Equity Act. Provides for legislative findings and a definition. Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a student attending an institution of higher learning in this State who is deemed an Illinois resident for tuition purposes and is not otherwise eligible to receive federal financial aid shall be eligible to apply or receive consideration for State financial aid, including any student aid or benefit funded or administered by the State, a State agency, or any public institution of higher learning, including, but not limited to, scholarships, grants, awards, stipends, free room and board, tuition waivers, or other financial or in-kind assistance.

LRB101 07754 AXK 52803 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. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Retention of Illinois Students and Equity Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly makes all of the  
7 following findings:

8 (1) The State of Illinois is committed to ensuring that  
9 all students who are residents of this State have  
10 meaningful and equitable access to higher education  
11 opportunities notwithstanding the student's race, color,  
12 gender or gender identity, age, ancestry, marital status,  
13 military status, religion, pregnancy, national origin,  
14 disability status, sexual orientation, order of protection  
15 status, as defined under Section 1-103 of the Illinois  
16 Human Rights Act, or immigration status.

17 (2) The State of Illinois is committed to retaining  
18 Illinois students who wish to attend institutions of higher  
19 learning in this State by addressing financial barriers for  
20 those students.

21 Section 10. Definition. In this Act, "Illinois resident"  
22 includes any person who is deemed an Illinois resident for

1 tuition purposes under State law.

2 Section 15. Equitable eligibility for financial aid.

3 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
4 contrary, a student attending an institution of higher learning  
5 in this State who is an Illinois resident and is not otherwise  
6 eligible to receive federal financial aid for students is  
7 eligible to apply or receive consideration for State financial  
8 aid for students, including any student aid or benefit funded  
9 or administered by the State, a State agency, or any public  
10 institution of higher learning, including, but not limited to,  
11 scholarships, grants, awards, stipends, free room and board,  
12 tuition waivers, or other financial or in-kind assistance.

13 (b) The General Assembly finds and declares that this  
14 Section is a State law within the meaning of subsection (d) of  
15 Section 1621 of Title 8 of the United States Code.

16 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are  
17 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.