



Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez

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LRB101 07754 AXK 58007 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2691

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 2691 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

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 educational
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.

1 (2) The State of Illinois is committed to ensuring that
2 students who may not have had the same educational
3 opportunities are not penalized as they seek to achieve
4 higher education.

5 (3) The State of Illinois is committed to ensuring the
6 success and retention of African American students by
7 safeguarding equitable access to educational funding and
8 eliminating systemic barriers.

9 (4) Lifting any caps on the Monetary Award Program,
10 other than those required by State law, will have a
11 positive impact on the retention and equity of African
12 American students and other students of color who are
13 disproportionately impacted by the lack of access to
14 resources in completing their postsecondary education.

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

19 Section 10. Definition. In this Act, "Illinois resident"
20 includes any person who is deemed an Illinois resident for
21 tuition purposes under State law.

22 Section 15. Equitable eligibility for financial aid and
23 benefits.

24 (a) A student who is an Illinois resident and who is not

1 otherwise eligible for federal financial aid, including, but
2 not limited to, a transgender student who is disqualified for
3 failure to register for selective service or a noncitizen
4 student who has not obtained lawful permanent residence, shall
5 be eligible for State financial aid and benefits as described
6 in subsection (b).

7 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
8 contrary, a student who is an Illinois resident (i) is eligible
9 to apply or receive consideration for any student aid or
10 benefit funded or administered by the State, any State agency,
11 or any public institution of higher learning, including, but
12 not limited to, scholarships, grants, awards, stipends, room
13 and board assistance, tuition waivers, or other financial or
14 in-kind assistance and (ii) to ensure equity, success, and the
15 retention of Illinois residents, may not be subject to any caps
16 on grant assistance available under the Monetary Award Program
17 other than those required by State law.

18 (c) The eligibility requirements under this Section for any
19 student aid or benefit funded or administered by the State
20 shall be interpreted to promote the broadest eligibility for
21 students who are Illinois residents in accordance with State
22 law or policy.

23 (d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed as modifying
24 any eligibility requirements regarding academic standing or
25 personal or household income for any State financial aid
26 program.

1 (e) The General Assembly finds and declares that this
2 Section is a State law within the meaning of subsection (d) of
3 Section 1621 of Title 8 of the United States Code.

4 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are
5 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes."