

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 School Code is amended by adding Section
5 22-85 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/22-85 new)

7 Sec. 22-85. Graduation requirements; Free Application for
8 Federal Student Aid.

9 (a) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, in addition
10 to any other requirements under this Code, as a prerequisite to
11 receiving a high school diploma from a public high school, the
12 parent or guardian of each student or, if a student is at least
13 18 years of age or legally emancipated, the student must comply
14 with either of the following:

15 (1) File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid
16 with the United States Department of Education or, if
17 applicable, an application for State financial aid.

18 (2) On a form created by the State Board of Education,
19 file a waiver with the student's school district indicating
20 that the parent or guardian or, if applicable, the student
21 understands what the Free Application for Federal Student
22 Aid and application for State financial aid are and has
23 chosen not to file an application under paragraph (1).

1 (b) Each school district with a high school must require
2 each high school student to comply with this Section and must
3 provide to each high school student and, if applicable, his or
4 her parent or guardian any support or assistance necessary to
5 comply with this Section. A school district must award a high
6 school diploma to a student who is unable to meet the
7 requirements of subsection (a) due to extenuating
8 circumstances, as determined by the school district, if (i) the
9 student has met all other graduation requirements under this
10 Code and (ii) the principal attests that the school district
11 has made a good faith effort to assist the student or, if
12 applicable, his or her parent or guardian in filing an
13 application or a waiver under subsection (a).

14 (c) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
15 implement this Section.