

SB3763



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB3763

Introduced 2/14/2020, by Sen. Scott M. Bennett

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.16 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides for the awarding of bilingual education teacher scholarships to persons meeting specified requirements. Requires the principal, or his or her designee, of an approved high school to certify to the Commission, for students who are Illinois residents and are completing an application for the scholarship, that the student ranked scholastically in the upper one-half of their graduating class at the end of the sixth semester. Provides teacher education program enrollment requirements. Provides post-scholarship teaching requirements and exemptions. Effective immediately.

LRB101 19999 CMG 69525 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 Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by adding Section 65.16 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.16 new)

7 Sec. 65.16. Bilingual education teacher scholarships.

8 (a) There shall be awarded annually 250 scholarships to
9 persons qualifying as members of any of the following groups:

10 (1) Students who are otherwise qualified to receive a
11 scholarship as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this
12 Section and who make application to the Commission for such
13 scholarship and agree to take courses that will prepare the
14 student for the teaching of children under Article 14C of
15 the School Code.

16 (2) Persons holding a valid certificate issued under
17 the laws relating to the certification of teachers and who
18 make application to the Commission for such scholarship and
19 agree to take courses that will prepare them for the
20 teaching of children under Article 14C of the School Code.

21 (3) Persons who (i) have graduated high school, (ii)
22 have not been certified as a teacher, and (iii) make
23 application to the Commission for such scholarship and

1 agree to take courses that will prepare them for the
2 teaching of children under Article 14C of the School Code.

3 Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be issued
4 pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission.

5 For the purposes of this Section, scholarships awarded each
6 school year shall be deemed to be issued on July 1 of the year
7 prior to the start of the postsecondary school term and all
8 calculations for use of the scholarship shall be based on such
9 date. Each scholarship shall entitle its holder to exemption
10 from fees as provided in subsection (a) of Section 65.40 while
11 enrolled in a transitional bilingual education program of
12 teacher education, or an equivalent program, for a period of
13 not more than 4 calendar years and shall be available for use
14 at any time during such period of study except as provided in
15 subsection (b) of Section 65.40.

16 Scholarships issued to holders of a valid certificate
17 issued under the laws relating to the certification of teachers
18 as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection may also
19 entitle the holder thereof to a program of teacher education
20 that will prepare the student for the teaching of children
21 under Article 14C of the School Code at the graduate level.

22 (b) The principal, or his or her designee, of an approved
23 high school shall certify to the Commission, for students who
24 are Illinois residents and are completing an application, that
25 the students ranked scholastically in the upper one-half of
26 their graduating class at the end of the sixth semester.

1 (c) Each holder of a scholarship must furnish proof to the
2 Commission, in such form and at such intervals as the
3 Commission prescribes, of the holder's continued enrollment in
4 a teacher education program qualifying the holder for the
5 scholarship. Any holder of a scholarship who fails to register
6 in a transitional bilingual education program of teacher
7 education, or an equivalent program, at the university within
8 10 days after the commencement of the term, quarter, or
9 semester immediately following the receipt of the scholarship
10 or who, having registered, withdraws from the university or
11 transfers out of teacher education, shall thereupon forfeit the
12 right to use it and it may be granted to the person having the
13 next highest rank as shown on the list held by the Commission.
14 If the person having the next highest rank, within 10 days
15 after notification thereof by the Commission, fails to register
16 at any such university in a transitional bilingual education
17 program of teacher education, or an equivalent program, or who,
18 having registered, withdraws from the university or transfers
19 out of teacher education, the scholarship may then be granted
20 to the person shown on the list as having the rank next below
21 such person.

22 (d) Any person who has accepted a scholarship under this
23 Section must, within one year after graduation from or
24 termination of enrollment in a teacher education program, begin
25 teaching at a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial
26 preschool or elementary or secondary school for a period of at

1 least 2 of the 5 years immediately following that graduation or
2 termination, excluding, however, from the computation of that 5
3 year period: (i) any time up to 3 years spent in the military
4 service, whether such service occurs before or after the person
5 graduates; (ii) any time that person is enrolled full-time in
6 an academic program related to the field of teaching leading to
7 a graduate or postgraduate degree; (iii) the time that person
8 is a person with a temporary total disability for a period of
9 time not to exceed 3 years, as established by the sworn
10 affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) the time that person
11 is seeking and unable to find full-time employment as a teacher
12 at an Illinois public, private, or parochial school; (v) the
13 time that person is taking additional courses, on at least a
14 half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a teacher in
15 Illinois; or (vi) the time that person is fulfilling teaching
16 requirements associated with other programs administered by
17 the Commission if he or she cannot concurrently fulfill them
18 under this Section in a period of time equal to the length of
19 the teaching obligation.

20 A person who has accepted a scholarship under this Section
21 and who has been unable to fulfill the teaching requirements of
22 this Section may receive a deferment from the obligation of
23 repayment under this subsection (d) under guidelines
24 established by the Commission.

25 Any such person who fails to fulfill this teaching
26 requirement shall pay to the Commission the amount of tuition

1 waived by virtue of his or her acceptance of the scholarship,
2 together with interest at 5% per year on that amount. However,
3 this obligation to repay the amount of tuition waived plus
4 interest does not apply when the failure to fulfill the
5 teaching requirement results from the death or adjudication as
6 a person under legal disability of the person holding the
7 scholarship, and no claim for repayment may be filed against
8 the estate of such a decedent or person under legal disability.
9 Payments received by the Commission under this subsection (d)
10 shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for deposit in the
11 General Revenue Fund. Each person receiving a scholarship shall
12 be provided with a description of the provisions of this
13 subsection (d) at the time he or she qualifies for the benefits
14 of such a scholarship.

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
16 becoming law.