



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4139

Introduced 9/3/2021, by Rep. Sue Scherer - Stephanie A. Kifowit

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.110 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Subject to appropriation, requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to establish and administer a teacher reimbursement grant program for the purpose of reimbursing public school teachers for up to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of the tuition and mandatory fees paid to a public institution of higher learning in this State to obtain a Professional Educator License and teach in this State. Provides that eligible applicants shall receive a grant in the form of annual reimbursement payments over a period of up to 10 consecutive years. Sets forth provisions concerning eligibility, the grant amount, disbursement and use of a grant, application for a grant, and rulemaking. Repeals the provisions on July 1, 2040. Effective immediately.

LRB102 19996 CMG 28798 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

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 65.110 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.110 new)

7 Sec. 65.110. Teacher reimbursement grant program.

8 (a) To encourage and motivate Illinois students to pursue
9 long-term teaching careers in elementary and secondary
10 education and to promote the retention of teachers in this
11 State, the Commission shall establish and administer a teacher
12 reimbursement grant program to reimburse public school
13 teachers for the tuition and mandatory fees they paid to an
14 public institution of higher learning in this State in order
15 to obtain a Professional Educator License under Article 21B of
16 the School Code and to teach in this State.

17 (b) Each year for a period of 6 years beginning on July 1,
18 2022, the Commission shall receive and consider applications
19 for grant assistance under this Section consisting of a
20 maximum of 10 payments to reimburse eligible applicants for up
21 to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of tuition and mandatory fees
22 associated with obtaining a Professional Educator License. An
23 applicant is eligible to receive a grant under this Section if

1 the Commission finds that the applicant:

2 (1) is a resident of this State;

3 (2) has satisfactorily completed a State-approved
4 educator preparation program at a public institution of
5 higher learning in this State;

6 (3) holds a Professional Educator License;

7 (4) is actively employed in a full-time teaching
8 position in a public school in this State;

9 (5) was actively employed in a full-time teaching
10 position in a public school located in this State for the
11 full school year immediately preceding the applicant's
12 submission of an application to participate in the
13 program; and

14 (6) provides to the Commission satisfactory
15 documentation of the total amount of tuition and mandatory
16 fees paid by the applicant to the public institution of
17 higher learning in this State for the purpose of obtaining
18 a Professional Educator License.

19 (c) A recipient of a grant under this Section may receive
20 reimbursement for up to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of tuition
21 and mandatory fees paid by the recipient to a public
22 institution of higher learning in this State for the purpose
23 of obtaining a Professional Educator License. Any tuition and
24 mandatory fees paid to the institution of higher learning for
25 academic terms in excess of 8 semesters or 12 quarters are
26 ineligible for reimbursement and may not be included in any

1 calculation determining the total amount of the grant to be
2 awarded to a recipient. In no case may the amount of tuition
3 and mandatory fees reimbursed to a recipient under this
4 Section exceed the amount of tuition and mandatory fees
5 actually paid by the recipient to the institution of higher
6 learning.

7 (d) Each year, for up to 10 consecutive years, in which a
8 grant recipient submits satisfactory documentation to the
9 Commission verifying that the recipient was actively employed
10 in a full-time teaching position in a public school located in
11 this State for the full preceding school year, the recipient
12 shall receive a payment in an amount equal to one-tenth of the
13 total amount of tuition and mandatory fees approved by the
14 Commission under subsection (c).

15 (e) The Commission may encourage the recipient of a grant
16 under the program to use the grant award for repayment of the
17 recipient's higher educational loans, if any.

18 (f) The form of the application under subsection (b) and
19 the information required to be provided shall be determined by
20 the Commission. An applicant or recipient under this Section
21 is required to submit any documentation the Commission may
22 deem necessary.

23 (g) The provisions of this Section are subject to
24 appropriation.

25 (h) The Commission may adopt any rules necessary to
26 implement and administer this Section.

1 (i) This Section is repealed on July 1, 2040.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.