



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4201

Introduced 1/5/2022, by Rep. Maurice A. West, II

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

- 110 ILCS 305/160 new
- 110 ILCS 520/135 new
- 110 ILCS 660/5-245 new
- 110 ILCS 665/10-245 new
- 110 ILCS 670/15-245 new
- 110 ILCS 675/20-250 new
- 110 ILCS 680/25-245 new
- 110 ILCS 685/30-255 new
- 110 ILCS 690/35-250 new
- 110 ILCS 805/3-29.20 new

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. Requires the governing board of each public university and community college district to employ a benefits navigator for the purpose of helping students at the institution of higher education apply for and receive assistance from benefits programs; defines "benefits program". Requires the governing board (i) to provide training for the benefits navigator, with training guidance and support provided by the Department of Human Services, (ii) participate in a statewide consortium with other public institutions of higher education for the purpose of facilitating communication between benefits navigators at different institutions and developing best practices for benefits navigators, and (iii) develop an internal process to enable students to provide feedback and recommendations on how the institution can better assist students in determining eligibility for benefits programs and applying for assistance under benefits programs. Sets forth the duties of a benefits navigator. Effective January 1, 2023.

LRB102 20703 CMG 29581 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

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 University of Illinois Act is amended by
5 adding Section 160 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 305/160 new)

7 Sec. 160. Benefits navigator.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is employed
10 by the Board of Trustees for the purpose of helping students at
11 the University apply for and receive assistance from benefits
12 programs.

13 "Benefits program" means any federal, State, or local
14 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
15 the basis of need.

16 (b) The Board of Trustees shall:

17 (1) employ a benefits navigator who has a detailed
18 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits
19 programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits
20 programs;

21 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator, with
22 training guidance and support provided by the Department
23 of Human Services to the University; and

1 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
2 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
3 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
4 different institutions and developing best practices for
5 benefits navigators.

6 (c) The benefits navigator employed under this Section
7 shall:

8 (1) assist students at the University in determining
9 eligibility for benefits programs and applying for
10 assistance under benefits programs;

11 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
12 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
13 navigators at other public institutions of higher
14 education for the purpose of collecting data and
15 developing best practices for helping students apply for
16 and receive assistance from benefits programs; and

17 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
18 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
19 to support students at the University.

20 (d) The Board of Trustees, in consultation with the
21 benefits navigator employed under this Section, shall develop
22 an internal process to enable students at the University to
23 provide feedback and recommendations on how the University can
24 better assist students in determining eligibility for benefits
25 programs and applying for assistance under benefits programs.

1 Section 10. The Southern Illinois University Management
2 Act is amended by adding Section 135 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 520/135 new)

4 Sec. 135. Benefits navigator.

5 (a) In this Section:

6 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is employed
7 by the Board for the purpose of helping students at the
8 University apply for and receive assistance from benefits
9 programs.

10 "Benefits program" means any federal, State, or local
11 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
12 the basis of need.

13 (b) The Board shall:

14 (1) employ a benefits navigator who has a detailed
15 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits
16 programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits
17 programs;

18 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator, with
19 training guidance and support provided by the Department
20 of Human Services to the University; and

21 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
22 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
23 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
24 different institutions and developing best practices for
25 benefits navigators.

1 (c) The benefits navigator employed under this Section
2 shall:

3 (1) assist students at the University in determining
4 eligibility for benefits programs and applying for
5 assistance under benefits programs;

6 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
7 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
8 navigators at other public institutions of higher
9 education for the purpose of collecting data and
10 developing best practices for helping students apply for
11 and receive assistance from benefits programs; and

12 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
13 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
14 to support students at the University.

15 (d) The Board, in consultation with the benefits navigator
16 employed under this Section, shall develop an internal process
17 to enable students at the University to provide feedback and
18 recommendations on how the University can better assist
19 students in determining eligibility for benefits programs and
20 applying for assistance under benefits programs.

21 Section 15. The Chicago State University Law is amended by
22 adding Section 5-245 as follows:

23 (110 ILCS 660/5-245 new)

24 Sec. 5-245. Benefits navigator.

1 (a) In this Section:

2 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is employed
3 by the Board for the purpose of helping students at the
4 University apply for and receive assistance from benefits
5 programs.

6 "Benefits program" means any federal, State, or local
7 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
8 the basis of need.

9 (b) The Board shall:

10 (1) employ a benefits navigator who has a detailed
11 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits
12 programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits
13 programs;

14 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator, with
15 training guidance and support provided by the Department
16 of Human Services to the University; and

17 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
18 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
19 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
20 different institutions and developing best practices for
21 benefits navigators.

22 (c) The benefits navigator employed under this Section
23 shall:

24 (1) assist students at the University in determining
25 eligibility for benefits programs and applying for
26 assistance under benefits programs;

1 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
2 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
3 navigators at other public institutions of higher
4 education for the purpose of collecting data and
5 developing best practices for helping students apply for
6 and receive assistance from benefits programs; and

7 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
8 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
9 to support students at the University.

10 (d) The Board, in consultation with the benefits navigator
11 employed under this Section, shall develop an internal process
12 to enable students at the University to provide feedback and
13 recommendations on how the University can better assist
14 students in determining eligibility for benefits programs and
15 applying for assistance under benefits programs.

16 Section 20. The Eastern Illinois University Law is amended
17 by adding Section 10-245 as follows:

18 (110 ILCS 665/10-245 new)

19 Sec. 10-245. Benefits navigator.

20 (a) In this Section:

21 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is employed
22 by the Board for the purpose of helping students at the
23 University apply for and receive assistance from benefits
24 programs.

1 "Benefits program" means any federal, State, or local
2 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
3 the basis of need.

4 (b) The Board shall:

5 (1) employ a benefits navigator who has a detailed
6 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits
7 programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits
8 programs;

9 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator, with
10 training guidance and support provided by the Department
11 of Human Services to the University; and

12 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
13 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
14 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
15 different institutions and developing best practices for
16 benefits navigators.

17 (c) The benefits navigator employed under this Section
18 shall:

19 (1) assist students at the University in determining
20 eligibility for benefits programs and applying for
21 assistance under benefits programs;

22 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
23 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
24 navigators at other public institutions of higher
25 education for the purpose of collecting data and
26 developing best practices for helping students apply for

1 and receive assistance from benefits programs; and

2 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
3 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
4 to support students at the University.

5 (d) The Board, in consultation with the benefits navigator
6 employed under this Section, shall develop an internal process
7 to enable students at the University to provide feedback and
8 recommendations on how the University can better assist
9 students in determining eligibility for benefits programs and
10 applying for assistance under benefits programs.

11 Section 25. The Governors State University Law is amended
12 by adding Section 15-245 as follows:

13 (110 ILCS 670/15-245 new)

14 Sec. 15-245. Benefits navigator.

15 (a) In this Section:

16 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is employed
17 by the Board for the purpose of helping students at the
18 University apply for and receive assistance from benefits
19 programs.

20 "Benefits program" means any federal, State, or local
21 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
22 the basis of need.

23 (b) The Board shall:

24 (1) employ a benefits navigator who has a detailed

1 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits
2 programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits
3 programs;

4 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator, with
5 training guidance and support provided by the Department
6 of Human Services to the University; and

7 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
8 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
9 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
10 different institutions and developing best practices for
11 benefits navigators.

12 (c) The benefits navigator employed under this Section
13 shall:

14 (1) assist students at the University in determining
15 eligibility for benefits programs and applying for
16 assistance under benefits programs;

17 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
18 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
19 navigators at other public institutions of higher
20 education for the purpose of collecting data and
21 developing best practices for helping students apply for
22 and receive assistance from benefits programs; and

23 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
24 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
25 to support students at the University.

26 (d) The Board, in consultation with the benefits navigator

1 employed under this Section, shall develop an internal process
2 to enable students at the University to provide feedback and
3 recommendations on how the University can better assist
4 students in determining eligibility for benefits programs and
5 applying for assistance under benefits programs.

6 Section 30. The Illinois State University Law is amended
7 by adding Section 20-250 as follows:

8 (110 ILCS 675/20-250 new)

9 Sec. 20-250. Benefits navigator.

10 (a) In this Section:

11 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is employed
12 by the Board for the purpose of helping students at the
13 University apply for and receive assistance from benefits
14 programs.

15 "Benefits program" means any federal, State, or local
16 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
17 the basis of need.

18 (b) The Board shall:

19 (1) employ a benefits navigator who has a detailed
20 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits
21 programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits
22 programs;

23 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator, with
24 training guidance and support provided by the Department

1 of Human Services to the University; and

2 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
3 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
4 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
5 different institutions and developing best practices for
6 benefits navigators.

7 (c) The benefits navigator employed under this Section
8 shall:

9 (1) assist students at the University in determining
10 eligibility for benefits programs and applying for
11 assistance under benefits programs;

12 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
13 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
14 navigators at other public institutions of higher
15 education for the purpose of collecting data and
16 developing best practices for helping students apply for
17 and receive assistance from benefits programs; and

18 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
19 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
20 to support students at the University.

21 (d) The Board, in consultation with the benefits navigator
22 employed under this Section, shall develop an internal process
23 to enable students at the University to provide feedback and
24 recommendations on how the University can better assist
25 students in determining eligibility for benefits programs and
26 applying for assistance under benefits programs.

1 Section 35. The Northeastern Illinois University Law is
2 amended by adding Section 25-245 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 680/25-245 new)

4 Sec. 25-245. Benefits navigator.

5 (a) In this Section:

6 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is employed
7 by the Board for the purpose of helping students at the
8 University apply for and receive assistance from benefits
9 programs.

10 "Benefits program" means any federal, State, or local
11 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
12 the basis of need.

13 (b) The Board shall:

14 (1) employ a benefits navigator who has a detailed
15 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits
16 programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits
17 programs;

18 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator, with
19 training guidance and support provided by the Department
20 of Human Services to the University; and

21 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
22 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
23 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
24 different institutions and developing best practices for

1 benefits navigators.

2 (c) The benefits navigator employed under this Section
3 shall:

4 (1) assist students at the University in determining
5 eligibility for benefits programs and applying for
6 assistance under benefits programs;

7 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
8 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
9 navigators at other public institutions of higher
10 education for the purpose of collecting data and
11 developing best practices for helping students apply for
12 and receive assistance from benefits programs; and

13 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
14 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
15 to support students at the University.

16 (d) The Board, in consultation with the benefits navigator
17 employed under this Section, shall develop an internal process
18 to enable students at the University to provide feedback and
19 recommendations on how the University can better assist
20 students in determining eligibility for benefits programs and
21 applying for assistance under benefits programs.

22 Section 40. The Northern Illinois University Law is
23 amended by adding Section 30-255 as follows:

24 (110 ILCS 685/30-255 new)

1 Sec. 30-255. Benefits navigator.

2 (a) In this Section:

3 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is employed
4 by the Board for the purpose of helping students at the
5 University apply for and receive assistance from benefits
6 programs.

7 "Benefits program" means any federal, State, or local
8 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
9 the basis of need.

10 (b) The Board shall:

11 (1) employ a benefits navigator who has a detailed
12 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits
13 programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits
14 programs;

15 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator, with
16 training guidance and support provided by the Department
17 of Human Services to the University; and

18 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
19 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
20 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
21 different institutions and developing best practices for
22 benefits navigators.

23 (c) The benefits navigator employed under this Section
24 shall:

25 (1) assist students at the University in determining
26 eligibility for benefits programs and applying for

1 assistance under benefits programs;
2 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
3 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
4 navigators at other public institutions of higher
5 education for the purpose of collecting data and
6 developing best practices for helping students apply for
7 and receive assistance from benefits programs; and
8 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
9 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
10 to support students at the University.
11 (d) The Board, in consultation with the benefits navigator
12 employed under this Section, shall develop an internal process
13 to enable students at the University to provide feedback and
14 recommendations on how the University can better assist
15 students in determining eligibility for benefits programs and
16 applying for assistance under benefits programs.

17 Section 45. The Western Illinois University Law is amended
18 by adding Section 35-250 as follows:

19 (110 ILCS 690/35-250 new)
20 Sec. 35-250. Benefits navigator.
21 (a) In this Section:
22 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is employed
23 by the Board for the purpose of helping students at the
24 University apply for and receive assistance from benefits

1 programs.

2 "Benefits program" means any federal, State, or local
3 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
4 the basis of need.

5 (b) The Board shall:

6 (1) employ a benefits navigator who has a detailed
7 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits
8 programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits
9 programs;

10 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator, with
11 training guidance and support provided by the Department
12 of Human Services to the University; and

13 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
14 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
15 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
16 different institutions and developing best practices for
17 benefits navigators.

18 (c) The benefits navigator employed under this Section
19 shall:

20 (1) assist students at the University in determining
21 eligibility for benefits programs and applying for
22 assistance under benefits programs;

23 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
24 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
25 navigators at other public institutions of higher
26 education for the purpose of collecting data and

1 developing best practices for helping students apply for
2 and receive assistance from benefits programs; and

3 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
4 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
5 to support students at the University.

6 (d) The Board, in consultation with the benefits navigator
7 employed under this Section, shall develop an internal process
8 to enable students at the University to provide feedback and
9 recommendations on how the University can better assist
10 students in determining eligibility for benefits programs and
11 applying for assistance under benefits programs.

12 Section 50. The Public Community College Act is amended by
13 adding Section 3-29.20 as follows:

14 (110 ILCS 805/3-29.20 new)

15 Sec. 3-29.20. Benefits navigator.

16 (a) In this Section:

17 "Benefits navigator" means an individual who is employed
18 by the board for the purpose of helping students at the
19 community college apply for and receive assistance from
20 benefits programs.

21 "Benefits program" means any federal, State, or local
22 program that provides assistance or benefits to individuals on
23 the basis of need.

24 (b) The board shall:

1 (1) employ a benefits navigator who has a detailed
2 understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits
3 programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits
4 programs;

5 (2) provide training for the benefits navigator, with
6 training guidance and support provided by the Department
7 of Human Services to the community college district; and

8 (3) participate in a statewide consortium with other
9 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
10 facilitating communication between benefits navigators at
11 different institutions and developing best practices for
12 benefits navigators.

13 (c) The benefits navigator employed under this Section
14 shall:

15 (1) assist students at the community college in
16 determining eligibility for benefits programs and applying
17 for assistance under benefits programs;

18 (2) use the consortium under paragraph (3) of
19 subsection (b) of this Section to coordinate with benefits
20 navigators at other public institutions of higher
21 education for the purpose of collecting data and
22 developing best practices for helping students apply for
23 and receive assistance from benefits programs; and

24 (3) coordinate and provide culturally specific
25 resources, including resources for non-English speakers,
26 to support students at the community college.

1 (d) The board, in consultation with the benefits navigator
2 employed under this Section, shall develop an internal process
3 to enable students at the community college to provide
4 feedback and recommendations on how the community college
5 district can better assist students in determining eligibility
6 for benefits programs and applying for assistance under
7 benefits programs.

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
9 1, 2023.