



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB5208

Introduced 1/31/2022, by Rep. Edgar Gonzalez, Jr.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 986/15

Amends the Retention of Illinois Students and Equity Act. Provides that a noncitizen graduate student who does not possess a valid visa or status as a lawful permanent resident is eligible for State financial aid and benefits.

LRB102 25360 CMG 34640 b

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 Retention of Illinois Students and Equity
5 Act is amended by changing Section 15 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 986/15)

7 Sec. 15. Equitable eligibility for financial aid and
8 benefits.

9 (a) A student who is an Illinois resident and who is not
10 otherwise eligible for federal financial aid, including, but
11 not limited to, a transgender student who is disqualified for
12 failure to register for selective service, a noncitizen
13 graduate student who does not possess a valid visa or status as
14 a lawful permanent resident, or a noncitizen student who has
15 not obtained lawful permanent residence, shall be eligible for
16 State financial aid and benefits as described in subsection
17 (b).

18 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
19 contrary, a student who is an Illinois resident (i) is
20 eligible to apply or receive consideration for any student aid
21 or benefit funded or administered by the State, any State
22 agency, or any public institution of higher learning,
23 including, but not limited to, scholarships, grants, awards,

1 stipends, room and board assistance, tuition waivers, or other
2 financial or in-kind assistance and (ii) to ensure equity,
3 success, and the retention of Illinois residents, may not be
4 subject to any caps on grant assistance available under the
5 Monetary Award Program other than those required by State law.

6 (c) The eligibility requirements under this Section for
7 any student aid or benefit funded or administered by the State
8 shall be interpreted to promote the broadest eligibility for
9 students who are Illinois residents in accordance with State
10 law or policy.

11 (d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed as
12 modifying any eligibility requirements regarding academic
13 standing or personal or household income for any State
14 financial aid program.

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

18 (Source: P.A. 101-21, eff. 1-1-20.)