

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. Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work
8 Professional Educator License scholarship.

9 (a) Subject to appropriation, beginning with awards for
10 the 2022-2023 academic year, the Commission shall award
11 annually up to 250 Post-Master of Social Work School Social
12 Work Professional Educator License scholarships to a person
13 who:

14 (1) holds a valid Illinois-licensed clinical social
15 work license or social work license;

16 (2) has obtained a master's degree in social work from
17 an approved program;

18 (3) is a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;
19 and

20 (4) submits an application to the Commission for such
21 scholarship and agrees to take courses to obtain an
22 Illinois Professional Educator License with an endorsement
23 in School Social Work.

1 (b) Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be
2 issued pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission. In
3 awarding scholarships, the Commission shall give priority to
4 those applicants who are members of a racial minority. In this
5 subsection (b), "racial minority" means a person who is a
6 citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident
7 alien of the United States and who is:

8 (1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black
9 racial groups in Africa);

10 (2) Hispanic (a person of Spanish or Portuguese
11 culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America,
12 or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race);

13 (3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of
14 the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the
15 Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or

16 (4) American Indian or Alaskan Native (a person having
17 origins in any of the original peoples of North America).

18 (c) Each scholarship shall be applied to the payment of
19 tuition and mandatory fees at the University of Illinois,
20 Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University,
21 Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University,
22 Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University,
23 Northern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University.
24 Each scholarship may be applied to pay tuition and mandatory
25 fees required to obtain an Illinois Professional Educator
26 License with an endorsement in School Social Work.

1 (d) The Commission shall make tuition and fee payments
2 directly to the qualified institution of higher learning that
3 the applicant attends.

4 (e) Any person who has accepted a scholarship under this
5 Section must, within one year after graduation or termination
6 of enrollment in a Post-Master of Social Work Professional
7 Education License with an endorsement in School Social Work
8 program, begin working as a school social worker at a public or
9 nonpublic not-for-profit preschool, elementary school, or
10 secondary school located in this State for at least 2 of the 5
11 years immediately following that graduation or termination,
12 excluding, however, from the computation of that 5-year
13 period: (i) any time up to 3 years spent in the military
14 service, whether such service occurs before or after the
15 person graduates; (ii) the time that person is a person with a
16 temporary total disability for a period of time not to exceed 3
17 years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified
18 physician; and (iii) the time that person is seeking and
19 unable to find full-time employment as a school social worker
20 at a State public, private, or parochial school.

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
22 1, 2022.