



Rep. Lindsey LaPointe

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10200SB0661ham001

LRB102 13543 CMG 26294 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 661

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 661 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

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

1 an approved program;

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

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

8 (b) If an appropriation for this Section for a given
9 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all
10 qualified applicants, the Commission shall allocate the
11 appropriation in accordance with this subsection (b). If funds
12 are insufficient to provide all qualified applicants with a
13 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission
14 shall allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal
15 year to qualified applicants who submit a complete application
16 on or before a date specified by the Commission, based on the
17 following order of priority:

18 (1) firstly, to students who received a scholarship
19 under this Section in the prior academic year and who
20 remain eligible for a scholarship under this Section;

21 (2) secondly, to new, qualified applicants who are
22 members of a racial minority, as defined in subsection
23 (c); and

24 (3) finally, to other new, qualified applicants in
25 accordance with this Section.

26 (c) Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be

1 issued pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission. In
2 awarding scholarships, the Commission shall give priority to
3 those applicants who are members of a racial minority. Racial
4 minorities are underrepresented as school social workers in
5 elementary and secondary schools in this State, and the
6 General Assembly finds that it is in the interest of this State
7 to provide them with priority consideration for programs that
8 encourage their participation in this field and thereby foster
9 a profession that is more reflective of the diversity of
10 Illinois students and the parents they will serve. A more
11 reflective workforce in school social work allows improved
12 outcomes for students and a better utilization of services.
13 Therefore, the Commission shall give priority to those
14 applicants who are members of a racial minority. In this
15 subsection (c), "racial minority" means a person who is a
16 citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident
17 alien of the United States and who is:

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

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

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

26 (4) American Indian or Alaskan Native (a person having

1 origins in any of the original peoples of North America).

2 (d) Each scholarship shall be applied to the payment of
3 tuition and mandatory fees at the University of Illinois,
4 Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University,
5 Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University,
6 Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University,
7 Northern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University.
8 Each scholarship may be applied to pay tuition and mandatory
9 fees required to obtain an Illinois Professional Educator
10 License with an endorsement in School Social Work.

11 (e) The Commission shall make tuition and fee payments
12 directly to the qualified institution of higher learning that
13 the applicant attends.

14 (f) Any person who has accepted a scholarship under this
15 Section must, within one year after graduation or termination
16 of enrollment in a Post-Master of Social Work Professional
17 Education License with an endorsement in School Social Work
18 program, begin working as a school social worker at a public or
19 nonpublic not-for-profit preschool, elementary school, or
20 secondary school located in this State for at least 2 of the 5
21 years immediately following that graduation or termination,
22 excluding, however, from the computation of that 5-year
23 period: (i) any time up to 3 years spent in the military
24 service, whether such service occurs before or after the
25 person graduates; (ii) the time that person is a person with a
26 temporary total disability for a period of time not to exceed 3

1 years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified
2 physician; and (iii) the time that person is seeking and
3 unable to find full-time employment as a school social worker
4 at a State public or nonpublic not-for profit preschool,
5 elementary school, or secondary school.

6 (g) If a recipient of a scholarship under this Section
7 fails to fulfill the work obligation set forth in subsection
8 (f), the Commission shall require the recipient to repay the
9 amount of the scholarships received, prorated according to the
10 fraction of the obligation not completed, at a rate of
11 interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable
12 collection fees. The Commission is authorized to establish
13 rules relating to its collection activities for repayment of
14 scholarships under this Section. All repayments collected
15 under this Section shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller
16 for deposit into this State's General Revenue Fund.

17 A recipient of a scholarship under this Section is not
18 considered to be in violation of the failure to fulfill the
19 work obligation under subsection (f) if the recipient (i)
20 enrolls on a full-time basis as a graduate student in a course
21 of study related to the field of social work at a qualified
22 Illinois institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not
23 in excess of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the
24 United States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total
25 disability for a period of time not to exceed 3 years, as
26 established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician;

1 (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time employment as a
2 school social worker at an Illinois public or nonpublic
3 not-for-profit preschool, elementary school, or secondary
4 school that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection (f)
5 and is able to provide evidence of that fact; or (v) becomes a
6 person with a permanent total disability, as established by
7 the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
9 1, 2022."