

# SB0662



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB0662

Introduced 2/24/2021, by Sen. Ann Gillespie

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.110 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Creates the School Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program. Provides that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall, each year, receive and consider applications from eligible social workers who are employed by a public elementary or secondary school in this State to encourage a grant recipient to use the financial assistance for the repayment of educational loans. Sets forth eligibility and other requirements. Effective July 1, 2022.

LRB102 13536 CMG 18883 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

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 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. School Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment  
8 Program.

9 (a) To encourage Illinois students to work, and to  
10 continue to work, as a school social worker in public school  
11 districts in this State, the Commission shall, each year,  
12 receive and consider applications for loan repayment  
13 assistance under this Section. This program shall be known as  
14 the School Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program. The  
15 Commission shall administer the program and shall adopt all  
16 necessary and proper rules to effectively implement the  
17 program.

18 (b) Beginning July 1, 2022, subject to a separate  
19 appropriation made for such purposes, the Commission shall  
20 award a grant, up to a maximum of \$6,500, to each qualified  
21 applicant. The Commission may encourage the recipient of a  
22 grant under this Section to use the grant award for repayment  
23 of the recipient's educational loan.

1       (c) A person is a qualified applicant under this Section  
2 if he or she meets all of the following qualifications:

3           (1) The person is a United States citizen or eligible  
4 noncitizen.

5           (2) The person is a resident of this State.

6           (3) The person is a borrower with an outstanding  
7 balance due on an educational loan related to obtaining a  
8 degree in social work.

9           (4) The person has been employed as a school social  
10 worker by a public elementary school or secondary school  
11 in this State for at least 12 consecutive months.

12           (5) The person is currently employed as a school  
13 social worker by a public elementary school or secondary  
14 school in this State.

15       (d) An applicant shall submit an application, in a form  
16 determined by the Commission, for grant assistance under this  
17 Section to the Commission. An applicant is required to submit,  
18 with the application, supporting documentation as the  
19 Commission may deem necessary.

20       (e) The Commission shall give priority to an applicant who  
21 is a member of an underrepresented community in the school  
22 social work field in Illinois.

23       Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
24 2022.