



Rep. Carol Ammons

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10200SB0815ham003

LRB102 04603 CMG 27324 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 815

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 815, AS AMENDED,  
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the  
4 following:

5 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
6 Commission on Equitable Public University Funding Act.

7 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds all of the  
8 following:

9 (1) Historical and continued systemic racism has  
10 created significant disparities in college access,  
11 affordability, and completion for Black, Latinx, and other  
12 underrepresented and historically underserved students in  
13 this State.

14 (2) Improvements in postsecondary access, completion,  
15 and success rates are required in order to meet State  
16 goals for equity in attainment and will require further

1 investments in the higher education system to support  
2 historically underrepresented and underserved groups,  
3 including Black, Latinx, and low-income students in  
4 particular.

5 (3) This State's approach to funding education has  
6 contributed to racial and socioeconomic inequities in  
7 access to resources and educational outcomes.

8 (4) Great strides have been made in this State in  
9 addressing inequity in funding the kindergarten through  
10 grade 12 public school system, including the adoption of  
11 an evidence-based funding formula, which has resulted in  
12 new funds being targeted to the highest-need districts.

13 (5) Adequate, equitable, and stable investment in  
14 higher education is the key to ensuring that every  
15 institution of higher education can provide adequate  
16 academic, financial, and social-emotional support and  
17 services that improve persistence and completion.

18 (6) In this State, higher education appropriations  
19 have effectively been cut in half since fiscal year 2002.  
20 Institutions of higher education serving higher  
21 percentages of Black students are more reliant on State  
22 funds and have been disproportionately harmed by this  
23 disinvestment in higher education.

24 (7) As a result of historic underfunding and level  
25 cuts to institutions of higher education, this State's  
26 public universities have needed to increase tuition to

1 make up the funding shortfalls.

2 (8) Combined with the high cost of college and  
3 insufficient State financial aid, racial income and wealth  
4 disparities caused by structural racism contribute to the  
5 accumulation of student debt and make college enrollment  
6 and persistence more challenging for Black and Latinx  
7 students.

8 (9) Despite similar numbers of Black high school  
9 graduates, about 25,000 fewer Black students enrolled in  
10 institutions of higher education in this State in 2018  
11 compared to 2008.

12 (10) State appropriations make it possible for  
13 colleges to provide essential academic services,  
14 social-emotional support and services, and institutional  
15 aid to students to improve student persistence and  
16 completion.

17 (11) This State must strategically invest in higher  
18 education to address wide disparities in degree  
19 completion. Public community colleges currently graduate  
20 Black and Latinx students at a rate of 14% and 26% within 3  
21 years, respectively, compared to 38% of white students. At  
22 public universities, Black and Latinx students currently  
23 graduate at a rate of 34% and 49%, respectively, compared  
24 to 66% of white students, within 6 years.

25 (12) This State has a moral obligation and economic  
26 interest in dismantling and reforming structures that

1 create or exacerbate racial and socioeconomic inequities  
2 in higher education.

3 (13) This State benefits from a public higher  
4 education system that receives adequate and stable  
5 resources for student success and that strategically uses  
6 those resources to maximize the potential of each public  
7 institution of higher education and to maximize the  
8 benefits to this State, including, but not limited to,  
9 improved college access and attainment and higher median  
10 wages for all residents, reduced income inequalities,  
11 improved economic output and innovation, increased access  
12 and engagement in world-class research opportunities, and  
13 improved college enrollment, persistence, and completion  
14 of underrepresented and historically underserved students,  
15 including Black and Latinx students and students from  
16 low-income families.

17 Section 10. Commission on Equitable Public University  
18 Funding; purpose.

19 (a) There is created the Commission on Equitable Public  
20 University Funding.

21 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to, at a minimum,  
22 recommend specific data-driven criteria and approaches to the  
23 General Assembly to adequately, equitably, and stably fund  
24 public universities in this State and to evaluate the existing  
25 funding methods used for public universities.

1 Section 15. Membership; administrative support;  
2 compensation.

3 (a) The membership of the Commission shall include, at a  
4 minimum:

5 (1) One member of the Senate appointed by the  
6 President of the Senate, who shall serve as  
7 co-chairperson.

8 (2) One member of the House of Representatives  
9 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
10 who shall serve as co-chairperson.

11 (3) The chairperson of the Board of Higher Education  
12 or a designee, who shall serve as co-chairperson.

13 (4) One member appointed by the Governor, who shall  
14 serve as co-chairperson.

15 (5) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority  
16 Leader of the Senate.

17 (6) One member of the House of Representatives  
18 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
19 Representatives.

20 (7) The chairperson of the Illinois Student Assistance  
21 Commission or a designee.

22 (8) The chairperson of the Higher Education Committee  
23 of the House of Representatives or a designee.

24 (9) The chairperson of the Higher Education Committee  
25 of the Senate or a designee.

1           (10) Twelve members representing the public  
2 universities in this State each appointed by the President  
3 of each public university.

4           (11) One member representing a higher education  
5 advocacy organization focused on eliminating disparities  
6 in college completion in this State for low-income and  
7 first-generation college students and students of color  
8 appointed by the Board of Higher Education.

9           (12) One member representing a statewide advocacy  
10 organization focused on improving educational and  
11 employment opportunities for women and adults appointed by  
12 the Board of Higher Education.

13           (13) One member representing a statewide advocacy  
14 organization focused on developing an equitable  
15 birth-to-career educational system appointed by the Board  
16 of Higher Education.

17           (14) One member representing a statewide organization  
18 that advocates for alternative education and bridge  
19 programs and the re-enrollment of students in this State  
20 appointed by the Board of Higher Education.

21           (15) One member representing a fiscal policy research  
22 organization focused on the impact that State-level budget  
23 and tax policies have on equitable education funding  
24 solutions appointed by the Board of Higher Education.

25           (16) Two members representing an organization that  
26 advocates on behalf of public university faculty members

1 who are each employed by a different university appointed  
2 by the Board of Higher Education.

3 (17) One health care expert from the public higher  
4 education arena appointed by the Board of Higher  
5 Education, in consultation with the presidents and  
6 chancellors of the public universities.

7 (18) One member who has legal expertise in higher  
8 education funding and finance appointed by the Board of  
9 Higher Education.

10 (19) One postsecondary student enrolled at a public  
11 university in this State appointed by the Board of Higher  
12 Education.

13 (b) The Board of Higher Education shall recognize and  
14 consider the representation of underrepresented and  
15 historically underserved groups, including those who are  
16 Black, Latinx, or from low-income families, and the racial and  
17 geographical diversity of this State when making appointments  
18 to the Commission.

19 (c) The co-chairpersons may identify and invite experts to  
20 speak to the Commission on issues, including, but not limited  
21 to, higher education funding, finance, health care, and  
22 research and development.

23 (d) The Board of Higher Education shall provide  
24 administrative support to the Commission, including any  
25 related workgroups, and shall be responsible for administering  
26 the Commission's operations and ensuring that the requirements

1 of this Act are met.

2 (e) The members of the Commission shall serve without  
3 compensation for their services as members of the Commission.

4 Section 20. Meetings; reports.

5 (a) The Commission shall meet at least once per quarter  
6 beginning no later than October 15, 2021.

7 (b) On or before July 1, 2023, the Commission shall  
8 deliver to the General Assembly and publish on the Board of  
9 Higher Education's Internet website or otherwise make publicly  
10 available a report on the Commission's recommendations,  
11 including specific criteria and funding approaches in  
12 accordance with all applicable laws, to establish an  
13 equity-based funding model for the allocation of State funds  
14 to public universities. The recommendations included in the  
15 report must be equity-centered and consider all of the  
16 following areas:

17 (1) Remediating inequities in funding that have led to  
18 disparities in access, affordability, and completion for  
19 underrepresented and historically underserved student  
20 groups, including students who are Black, Latinx, or from  
21 low-income families.

22 (2) Ensuring that this State adequately, equitably,  
23 and stably funds public institutions of higher education  
24 in a manner that recognizes historical and current  
25 inequities impacting underrepresented minorities' higher



1 education access and completion.

2 (3) Providing incentives to all 4-year institutions of  
3 higher education in this State to enroll underrepresented  
4 and historically underserved student groups, including  
5 students who are Black, Latinx, or from low-income  
6 families, in proportion to the diversity of this State's  
7 population.

8 (4) Allowing ongoing monitoring and continuous  
9 improvement of the public university funding models by  
10 requiring transparency and accountability in how State  
11 appropriations are expended and identifying a mechanism to  
12 study and review the implementation of any funding model  
13 developed and the long-term implications of this Act.

14 (5) Creating guidelines for how funding is distributed  
15 during times of significant economic hardship, as defined  
16 by the Commission, so that public institutions of higher  
17 education are able to adequately, equitably, and stably  
18 serve students.

19 (6) Ensuring that this State adequately and stably  
20 funds public institutions of higher education that serve  
21 underrepresented and historically underserved student  
22 groups, including students who are Black, Latinx, or from  
23 low-income families, and graduate and professional  
24 students, including doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and  
25 veterinarians.

26 (7) Supporting the diverse individual mission of each

1 public university, including its commitment to research  
2 and health care enterprises that serve and enhance the  
3 well-being of the residents of this State.

4 (8) Fostering the economic activity and innovation  
5 generated by a university's activities, while recognizing  
6 the impact historic funding inequities may have had on the  
7 university's activities.

8 (9) Taking into consideration the percentage of  
9 institutional aid provided from an institution's annual  
10 budget.

11 (10) Taking into consideration the number of  
12 undergraduate students engaged in research at each  
13 university.

14 (11) Supporting institutional efforts to recruit and  
15 retain world-class faculty and university leaders.

16 (12) Ensuring stable and adequate funding for all  
17 institutions and that all universities are held harmless  
18 to their current funding level. The Commission may  
19 consider and report approaches to and the impact of a hold  
20 harmless funding provision for institutions of higher  
21 education as part of its final recommendations.

22 (13) Taking into consideration the long-term  
23 implications and outcomes of the funding systems.

24 The recommendations must fulfill the principles  
25 established by the Board of Higher Education's Strategic Plan.  
26 The recommendations may also be informed by the data-driven

1 findings and recommendations established by the Chicago State  
2 University Equity Working Group and other groups researching  
3 equity in higher education and higher education funding and be  
4 aligned to this State's postsecondary attainment goal and  
5 related equity targets.

6 Section 25. Compliance. Notwithstanding any other law or  
7 provision to the contrary, all public institutions of higher  
8 education and State agencies regulating public institutions of  
9 higher education shall furnish such data and information to  
10 the Commission as the Commission deems necessary to fulfill  
11 the requirements of this Act.

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
13 becoming law.".