



Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 815

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 815 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Commission on Equitable Higher Education Funding Act.

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

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

13 (2) This State's approach to funding education has
14 contributed to racial and socioeconomic inequities in
15 access to resources and educational outcomes.

16 (3) Great strides have been made in this State in

1 addressing inequity in funding the kindergarten through
2 grade 12 public school system, including the adoption of
3 an evidence-based funding formula, which has resulted in
4 new funds being targeted to the highest-need districts.

5 (4) Adequate and equitable investment in higher
6 education is the key to ensuring that every institution of
7 higher education can provide adequate academic, financial,
8 and social-emotional support and services that improve
9 persistence and completion.

10 (5) In this State, higher education appropriations
11 have effectively been cut in half since fiscal year 2002.
12 Institutions of higher education serving higher
13 percentages of Black students are more reliant on State
14 funds and have been disproportionately harmed by this
15 disinvestment in higher education.

16 (6) The most selective institutions of higher
17 education in this State have received a greater share of
18 State appropriations even as their tuition revenue has
19 grown, while less-selective institutions who serve greater
20 percentages of Black students have had less access to both
21 tuition and State revenue.

22 (7) As a result of historic underfunding and level
23 cuts to institutions of higher education, this State's
24 public universities have had to increase tuition,
25 effectively pricing out students from low-income families.
26 Less selective universities in this State now have the

1 second highest average net cost in the country for
2 students from the lowest-income households.

3 (8) Wealth and income gaps caused by structural racism
4 have resulted in college tuition rates posing a larger
5 burden to Black and Latinx families. Black and Latinx
6 families in this State pay 44% and 39% of their income,
7 respectively, to attend public universities compared to
8 31% for white students. Black and Latinx students in this
9 State pay 36% and 24% of their income, respectively, to
10 attend public community colleges, compared to 18% for
11 white students.

12 (9) Combined with the high cost of college and
13 insufficient State financial aid, racial income and wealth
14 disparities contribute to the accumulation of student debt
15 and make college enrollment and persistence more
16 challenging for Black and Latinx students.

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

21 (11) Only 2 of the 12 public universities are
22 representative of the Latinx population in this State, and
23 only 4 public universities are representative of the Black
24 population in this State.

25 (12) Seventeen percent of individuals who are 18 to 24
26 years old in this State identify as Black, yet Black

1 students represent less than 7% of the student body at
2 selective universities in this State.

3 (13) State appropriations make it possible for
4 colleges to provide essential academic services,
5 social-emotional support and services, and institutional
6 aid to students to improve student persistence and
7 completion.

8 (14) This State must strategically invest in higher
9 education to address wide disparities in degree
10 completion. Public community colleges currently graduate
11 Black and Latinx students at a rate of 14% and 26% within 3
12 years, respectively, compared to 38% of white students. At
13 public universities, Black and Latinx students currently
14 graduate at a rate of 34% and 49%, respectively, compared
15 to 66% of white students, within 6 years.

16 (15) This State has a moral obligation and economic
17 interest in dismantling and reforming structures that
18 create or exacerbate racial and socioeconomic inequities
19 in higher education.

20 (16) This State benefits from a public higher
21 education system that receives adequate and stable
22 resources for student success and that strategically uses
23 those resources to maximize college enrollment,
24 persistence, and completion of underrepresented and
25 historically underserved students, including Black and
26 Latinx students and students from low-income families.

1 Section 10. Commission on Equitable Higher Education
2 Funding; purpose.

3 (a) There is created the Commission on Equitable Higher
4 Education Funding.

5 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to, at a minimum,
6 recommend specific criteria and approaches to the General
7 Assembly to equitably fund public universities in this State
8 and to evaluate the existing formula used for public community
9 colleges using similar criteria and approaches.

10 Section 15. Membership; administrative support;
11 compensation.

12 (a) The membership of the Commission shall include, at a
13 minimum:

14 (1) One member of the Senate appointed by the
15 President of the Senate, who shall serve as
16 co-chairperson.

17 (2) One member of the House of Representatives
18 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
19 who shall serve as co-chairperson.

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

22 (4) The chairperson of the Illinois Community College
23 Board or a designee, who shall serve as co-chairperson.

24 (5) One member appointed by the Governor, who shall

1 serve as co-chairperson.

2 (6) One senator appointed by the Minority Leader of
3 the Senate.

4 (7) One representative appointed by the Minority
5 Leader of the House of Representatives.

6 (8) The Chairperson of the Illinois Student Assistance
7 Commission or a designee.

8 (9) The Chairperson of the State Board of Education or
9 a designee.

10 (10) Twelve representatives of the public universities
11 in this State appointed by the chairperson of the Board of
12 Higher Education.

13 (11) Four representatives of the public community
14 colleges in this State appointed by the chairperson of the
15 Illinois Community College Board.

16 (12) One member representing a higher education
17 advocacy organization focused on eliminating disparities
18 in college completion in this State for low-income and
19 first-generation college students and students of color
20 appointed by the Board of Higher Education.

21 (13) One member representing a statewide advocacy
22 organization focused on improving educational and
23 employment opportunities for women and adults appointed by
24 the Board of Higher Education.

25 (14) One member representing a statewide advocacy
26 organization focused on developing an equitable

1 birth-to-career educational system appointed by the Board
2 of Higher Education.

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

7 (16) One member representing a business organization
8 or business trade association appointed by the Board of
9 Higher Education.

10 (17) One research expert in higher education finance
11 and funding formulas appointed by the Board of Higher
12 Education.

13 (18) One member representing an organization that
14 advocates on behalf of public university faculty members
15 appointed by the Board of Higher Education.

16 (19) One member representing an organization that
17 advocates on behalf of public community college faculty
18 members appointed by the Illinois Community College Board.

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

22 (21) One postsecondary student enrolled at a public
23 community college in this State appointed by the Illinois
24 Community College Board.

25 (b) The Board of Higher Education and Illinois Community
26 College Board shall provide administrative support to the

1 Commission, including any related workgroups, and shall be
2 responsible for administering the Commission's operations and
3 ensuring that the requirements of this Act are met.

4 (c) The members of the Commission shall serve without
5 compensation for their services as members of the Commission.

6 Section 20. Meetings; reports.

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

9 (b) On or before February 1, 2023, the Commission shall
10 deliver to the General Assembly a report on the Commission's
11 recommendations, including specific criteria and funding
12 approaches, to establish an equity-based higher education
13 funding system for, at a minimum, the allocation of State
14 funds to public universities. The recommendations included in
15 the report must focus on all of the following areas:

16 (1) Remediating inequities in funding that have led to
17 disparities in access, affordability, and completion for
18 Black, Latinx, and other underrepresented and historically
19 underserved students.

20 (2) Ensuring that this State adequately funds public
21 institutions of higher education that serve Black and
22 Latinx students that proportionally reflects, at a
23 minimum, the diversity of this State's population.

24 (3) Providing incentives to all 4-year institutions of
25 higher education in this State to enroll underrepresented

1 and historically underserved student groups, including
2 students who are Black, Latinx, or from low-income
3 families, in proportion to the diversity of this State's
4 population.

5 (4) Allowing ongoing monitoring and continuous
6 improvement of funding formulas by requiring transparency
7 in how State appropriations are expended and identifying a
8 mechanism to study and review the implementation of any
9 funding model developed as a result of this Act.

10 (5) Creating guidelines for how funding is distributed
11 during times of economic hardship so that public
12 institutions of higher education are able to adequately
13 and equitably serve students.

14 The recommendations must fulfill the principles
15 established by the Board of Higher Education's Strategic Plan.
16 The recommendations must also be informed by the findings and
17 recommendations established by the Chicago State University
18 Equity Working Group.

19 The Commission shall also report to the General Assembly
20 the extent to which the current approach to funding fulfills
21 the principles established by the Board of Higher Education's
22 Strategic Plan.

23 (c) On or before May 1, 2024 and each year thereafter, the
24 Board of Higher Education shall file a report with the General
25 Assembly that includes, at a minimum, all of the following:

26 (1) The State funding allocations and total revenue of

1 each public institution of higher education for each of
2 the prior 5 academic years.

3 (2) The average institutional funding allocation per
4 student for each of the prior 5 academic years,
5 disaggregated by variables, including, but not limited to,
6 racial group, income status, dependency, and in-state
7 residency status.

8 (3) The average expenditures per student for each of
9 the prior 5 academic years, defined as the sum of academic
10 and student support expenditures, disaggregated by
11 variables, including, but not limited to, racial group,
12 income status, dependency, and in-state residency status.

13 Section 25. Compliance. Notwithstanding any other law or
14 provision to the contrary, all public institutions of higher
15 education and State agencies regulating public institutions of
16 higher education shall furnish such data and information to
17 the Commission as the Commission deems necessary to fulfill
18 the requirements of this Act.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
20 becoming law."