

SB1643



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB1643

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Chapin Rose

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/35

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that an applicant enrolled in a certificate program offered by a public community college is eligible for a Monetary Award Program grant until he or she completes the certificate program, provided that the certificate program provides certification for employment in a high-demand industry in which the holder of the certificate can expect to find, within 3 months following the award of the certificate, employment that offers a salary of at least \$50,000 annually. Effective immediately.

LRB102 16587 CMG 21984 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 changing Section 35 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/35)

7 Sec. 35. Monetary award program.

8 (a) The Commission shall, each year, receive and consider
9 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Subject
10 to a separate appropriation for such purposes, an applicant is
11 eligible for a grant under this Section when the Commission
12 finds that the applicant:

13 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or
14 permanent resident of the United States; and

15 (2) in the absence of grant assistance, will be
16 deterred by financial considerations from completing an
17 educational program at the qualified institution of his or
18 her choice, including any certificate program offered by a
19 public community college, provided that the certificate
20 program provides certification for employment in a
21 high-demand industry in which the holder of the
22 certificate can expect to find, within 3 months following
23 the award of the certificate, employment that offers a

1 salary of at least \$50,000 annually.

2 (b) The Commission shall award renewals only upon the
3 student's application and upon the Commission's finding that
4 the applicant:

5 (1) has remained a student in good standing;

6 (2) remains a resident of this State; and

7 (3) is in a financial situation that continues to
8 warrant assistance.

9 (c) All grants shall be applicable only to tuition and
10 necessary fee costs. The Commission shall determine the grant
11 amount for each student, which shall not exceed the smallest
12 of the following amounts:

13 (1) subject to appropriation, \$5,468 for fiscal year
14 2009, \$5,968 for fiscal year 2010, and \$6,468 for fiscal
15 year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, or such lesser
16 amount as the Commission finds to be available, during an
17 academic year;

18 (2) the amount which equals 2 semesters or 3 quarters
19 tuition and other necessary fees required generally by the
20 institution of all full-time undergraduate students; or

21 (3) such amount as the Commission finds to be
22 appropriate in view of the applicant's financial
23 resources.

24 Subject to appropriation, the maximum grant amount for
25 students not subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection (c)
26 must be increased by the same percentage as any increase made

1 by law to the maximum grant amount under subdivision (1) of
2 this subsection (c).

3 "Tuition and other necessary fees" as used in this Section
4 include the customary charge for instruction and use of
5 facilities in general, and the additional fixed fees charged
6 for specified purposes, which are required generally of
7 nongrant recipients for each academic period for which the
8 grant applicant actually enrolls, but do not include fees
9 payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent
10 deposits which are refundable in whole or in part. The
11 Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with this
12 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of
13 tuition and other necessary fees.

14 (d) No applicant, including those presently receiving
15 scholarship assistance under this Act, is eligible for
16 monetary award program consideration under this Act after
17 receiving a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135
18 semester credit hours of award payments. However, an applicant
19 enrolled in a certificate program offered by a public
20 community college may continue to be eligible for monetary
21 award program consideration under this Act until the
22 completion of the certificate program even if he or she has
23 exceeded this limitation, provided that the certificate
24 program provides certification for employment in a high-demand
25 industry in which the holder of the certificate can expect to
26 find, within 3 months following the award of the certificate,

1 employment that offers a salary of at least \$50,000 annually.

2 (d-5) In this subsection (d-5), "renewing applicant" means
3 a student attending an institution of higher learning who
4 received a Monetary Award Program grant during the prior
5 academic year. Beginning with the processing of applications
6 for the 2020-2021 academic year, the Commission shall annually
7 publish a priority deadline date for renewing applicants.
8 Subject to appropriation, a renewing applicant who files by
9 the published priority deadline date shall receive a grant if
10 he or she continues to meet the eligibility requirements under
11 this Section. A renewing applicant's failure to apply by the
12 priority deadline date established under this subsection (d-5)
13 shall not disqualify him or her from receiving a grant if
14 sufficient funding is available to provide awards after that
15 date.

16 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to
17 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with
18 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The
19 Commission shall notify applicants that grant assistance is
20 contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds.

21 (e-5) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is
22 an important purpose of the Monetary Award Program to
23 facilitate access to college both for students who pursue
24 postsecondary education immediately following high school and
25 for those who pursue postsecondary education later in life,
26 particularly Illinoisans who are dislocated workers with

1 financial need and who are seeking to improve their economic
2 position through education. For the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017
3 academic years, the Commission shall give additional and
4 specific consideration to the needs of dislocated workers with
5 the intent of allowing applicants who are dislocated workers
6 an opportunity to secure financial assistance even if applying
7 later than the general pool of applicants. The Commission's
8 consideration shall include, in determining the number of
9 grants to be offered, an estimate of the resources needed to
10 serve dislocated workers who apply after the Commission
11 initially suspends award announcements for the upcoming
12 regular academic year, but prior to the beginning of that
13 academic year. For the purposes of this subsection (e-5), a
14 dislocated worker is defined as in the federal Workforce
15 Innovation and Opportunity Act.

16 (f) (Blank).

17 (g) The Commission shall determine the eligibility of and
18 make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit
19 institutions in accordance with the criteria set forth in this
20 Section. The eligibility of applicants enrolled at such
21 for-profit institutions shall be limited as follows:

22 (1) Beginning with the academic year 1997, only to
23 eligible first-time freshmen and first-time transfer
24 students who have attained an associate degree.

25 (2) Beginning with the academic year 1998, only to
26 eligible freshmen students, transfer students who have

1 attained an associate degree, and students who receive a
2 grant under paragraph (1) for the academic year 1997 and
3 whose grants are being renewed for the academic year 1998.

4 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all
5 eligible students.

6 (h) The Commission may adopt rules to implement this
7 Section.

8 (Source: P.A. 100-477, eff. 9-8-17; 100-621, eff. 7-20-18;
9 100-823, eff. 8-13-18; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19.)

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law.