



Sen. Laura Fine

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10200SB3032sam001

LRB102 22166 RJT 35551 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 3032

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 3032 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Student Debt Assistance Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Debt" means any money, obligation, claim, or sum due or  
8 owing or alleged to be due or owing from a student to an  
9 institution of higher education. "Debt" does not include the  
10 fee, if any, that is charged to students by an applicable  
11 provider for the actual cost of providing an academic  
12 transcript to a student.

13 "Institution of higher education" includes, but is not  
14 limited to, an institution to which the Private Business and  
15 Vocational Schools Act of 2012 or the Private College Act  
16 applies and a public institution of higher education included

1 in the definition of "public institutions of higher education"  
2 under the Board of Higher Education Act. "Institution of  
3 higher education" also includes a person engaged in the  
4 business of providing postsecondary education, via  
5 correspondence or online or in this State, to an individual  
6 located in this State, regardless of whether the person has  
7 obtained authorization from the Board of Higher Education to  
8 operate in this State or is accredited.

9 "Official transcript" means the academic transcript or a  
10 similar academic record of each current or former student of  
11 an institution of higher education that is deemed official,  
12 authenticated, certified, or bona fide and that contains  
13 information customarily provided on an official academic  
14 transcript, including, but not limited to, courses taken,  
15 terms, grades, degrees or credentials conferred, and any other  
16 similar information.

17 "Unofficial transcript" means the academic transcript or a  
18 similar academic record of each current or former student of  
19 an institution of higher education that contains information  
20 customarily provided on an official transcript, but cannot be  
21 used to transfer academic credits to another institution of  
22 higher education.

23 Section 10. Withholding of unofficial transcripts  
24 prohibited. An institution of higher education may not do any  
25 of the following:

1           (1) Refuse to provide an unofficial transcript to a  
2           current or former student on the grounds that the student  
3           owes a debt.

4           (2) Condition the provision of an unofficial  
5           transcript on the payment of a debt, other than a fee  
6           charged to provide the transcript.

7           (3) Charge a higher fee for obtaining an unofficial  
8           transcript or provide less favorable treatment of a  
9           request for an unofficial transcript because a current or  
10          former student owes a debt.

11          Section 15. Withholding of official transcripts. An  
12          institution of higher education:

13           (1) must provide an official transcript of a current  
14           or former student to a current or potential employer, even  
15           if the current or former student owes a debt;

16           (2) may not condition the provision of an official  
17           transcript to a current or potential employer on the  
18           payment of a debt, other than a fee charged to provide the  
19           transcript; and

20           (3) may not charge a higher fee for transferring an  
21           official transcript to a current or potential employer or  
22           provide less favorable treatment for such a request  
23           because a current or former student owes a debt.

24          Section 20. Physical or financial hardship policy.

1           (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, every  
2 institution of higher education must have a policy instituting  
3 a financial or physical hardship withdrawal process. The  
4 process must work to limit debt owed by students who have to  
5 withdraw from the institution due to a significant financial  
6 or physical hardship and to assist those students if and when  
7 they choose to re-enroll. Types of hardship shall include, but  
8 are not limited to:

9           (1) serious injury or illness;

10          (2) chronic illness;

11          (3) a medical issue of a family member in which the  
12 student has to become a part-time or full-time caretaker  
13 of that family member;

14          (4) a mental health condition;

15          (5) a sudden or consistent lack of transportation  
16 issue; and

17          (6) a significant cost of living increase.

18           (b) Information regarding the existence of the financial  
19 or physical hardship withdrawal process shall be publicized on  
20 the institution of higher education's website, and information  
21 must be given to students as part of any school orientation  
22 process.

23           Section 25. Student debt and credit report. If an  
24 institution of higher education chooses to send a current or  
25 former student's past due debt to a debt collection agency,

1 the past due debt may not be reported to any credit reporting  
2 agencies or used against that student in a credit report or  
3 credit score.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
5 becoming law.".