

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 65.110 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.110)

7 Sec. 65.110. Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work
8 Professional Educator License scholarship.

9 (a) Subject to appropriation, beginning with awards for
10 the 2022-2023 academic year, the Commission shall award
11 annually up to 250 Post-Master of Social Work School Social
12 Work Professional Educator License scholarships to a person
13 who:

14 (1) holds a valid Illinois-licensed clinical social
15 work license or social work license;

16 (2) has obtained a master's degree in social work from
17 an approved program;

18 (3) is a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;
19 and

20 (4) submits an application to the Commission for such
21 scholarship and agrees to take courses to obtain an
22 Illinois Professional Educator License with an endorsement
23 in School Social Work.

1 (b) If an appropriation for this Section for a given
2 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all
3 qualified applicants, the Commission shall allocate the
4 appropriation in accordance with this subsection (b). If funds
5 are insufficient to provide all qualified applicants with a
6 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission
7 shall allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal
8 year to qualified applicants who submit a complete application
9 on or before a date specified by the Commission, based on the
10 following order of priority:

11 (1) firstly, to students who received a scholarship
12 under this Section in the prior academic year and who
13 remain eligible for a scholarship under this Section;

14 (2) secondly, to new, qualified applicants who are
15 members of a racial minority, as defined in subsection
16 (c); and

17 (3) finally, to other new, qualified applicants in
18 accordance with this Section.

19 (c) Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be
20 issued pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission. In
21 awarding scholarships, the Commission shall give priority to
22 those applicants who are members of a racial minority. Racial
23 minorities are underrepresented as school social workers in
24 elementary and secondary schools and as social workers in
25 municipalities in this State, and the General Assembly finds
26 that it is in the interest of this State to provide them with

1 priority consideration for programs that encourage their
2 participation in this field and thereby foster a profession
3 that is more reflective of the diversity of the Illinois
4 residents, students, and ~~the~~ parents they will serve. A more
5 reflective workforce in ~~school~~ social work allows improved
6 outcomes for individuals ~~students~~ and a better utilization of
7 services. Therefore, the Commission shall give priority to
8 those applicants who are members of a racial minority. In this
9 subsection (c), "racial minority" means a person who is a
10 citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident
11 alien of the United States and who is:

12 (1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black
13 racial groups in Africa);

14 (2) Hispanic (a person of Spanish or Portuguese
15 culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America,
16 or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race);

17 (3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of
18 the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the
19 Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or

20 (4) American Indian or Alaskan Native (a person having
21 origins in any of the original peoples of North America).

22 (d) Each scholarship shall be applied to the payment of
23 tuition and mandatory fees at the University of Illinois,
24 Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University,
25 Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University,
26 Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University,

1 Northern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University.
2 Each scholarship may be applied to pay tuition and mandatory
3 fees required to obtain an Illinois Professional Educator
4 License with an endorsement in School Social Work.

5 (e) The Commission shall make tuition and fee payments
6 directly to the qualified institution of higher learning that
7 the applicant attends.

8 (f) Any person who has accepted a scholarship under this
9 Section must, within one year after graduation or termination
10 of enrollment in a Post-Master of Social Work Professional
11 Education License with an endorsement in School Social Work
12 program, begin working as a school social worker at a public or
13 nonpublic not-for-profit preschool, elementary school, or
14 secondary school located in this State or as a social worker
15 for an Illinois municipality who does not report directly to a
16 police department for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately
17 following that graduation or termination. The following is
18 excluded, excluding, however, from the computation of that
19 5-year period: (i) any time up to 3 years spent in the military
20 service, whether such service occurs before or after the
21 person graduates; (ii) the time that person is a person with a
22 temporary total disability for a period of time not to exceed 3
23 years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified
24 physician; and (iii) the time that person is seeking and
25 unable to find full-time employment as a school social worker
26 at a State public or nonpublic not-for-profit preschool,

1 elementary school, or secondary school or as a social worker
2 for an Illinois municipality who does not report directly to a
3 police department.

4 (g) If a recipient of a scholarship under this Section
5 fails to fulfill the work obligation set forth in subsection
6 (f), the Commission shall require the recipient to repay the
7 amount of the scholarships received, prorated according to the
8 fraction of the obligation not completed, at a rate of
9 interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable
10 collection fees. The Commission is authorized to establish
11 rules relating to its collection activities for repayment of
12 scholarships under this Section. All repayments collected
13 under this Section shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller
14 for deposit into this State's General Revenue Fund.

15 A recipient of a scholarship under this Section is not
16 considered to be in violation of the failure to fulfill the
17 work obligation under subsection (f) if the recipient (i)
18 enrolls on a full-time basis as a graduate student in a course
19 of study related to the field of social work at a qualified
20 Illinois institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not
21 in excess of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the
22 United States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total
23 disability for a period of time not to exceed 3 years, as
24 established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician;
25 (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time employment as a
26 school social worker at an Illinois public or nonpublic

1 not-for-profit preschool, elementary school, or secondary
2 school or as a social worker for an Illinois municipality who
3 does not report directly to a police department that satisfies
4 the criteria set forth in subsection (f) and is able to provide
5 evidence of that fact; or (v) becomes a person with a permanent
6 total disability, as established by the sworn affidavit of a
7 qualified physician.

8 (Source: P.A. 102-621, eff. 1-1-22.)