

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 62 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/62)

7 (Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 102-1100)

8 Sec. 62. Grants for exonerated persons.

9 (a) In this Section:

10 "Dependent" means a spouse, natural child, legally adopted  
11 child, or child in the legal custody of an exonerated person.

12 "Exonerated person" means an individual who has received a  
13 pardon from the Governor of the State of Illinois stating that  
14 such a pardon is issued on the grounds of innocence of the  
15 crime for which he or she was imprisoned or an individual who  
16 has received a certificate of innocence from a circuit court  
17 pursuant to Section 2-702 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

18 "Satisfactory academic progress" means the qualified  
19 applicant's maintenance of minimum standards of academic  
20 performance, consistent with requirements for maintaining  
21 federal financial aid eligibility, as determined by the  
22 institution of higher learning.

23 (b) Subject to a separate appropriation for this purpose,

1 the Commission shall, each year, receive and consider  
2 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Both an  
3 exonerated person and all of his or her dependents qualify to  
4 receive a grant ~~Recipients of grants~~ issued by the Commission  
5 in accordance with this Section ~~must be exonerated persons~~.  
6 Provided that the recipient is maintaining satisfactory  
7 academic progress, the funds from the grant may be used to pay  
8 up to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of full payment of tuition and  
9 mandatory fees at any public university or public community  
10 college located in this State for either full or part-time  
11 study. This benefit may be used for undergraduate or graduate  
12 study.

13 In addition, a qualified applicant ~~an exonerated person~~  
14 who has not yet received a high school diploma or a high school  
15 equivalency certificate and completes a high school  
16 equivalency preparation course through an Illinois Community  
17 College Board-approved provider may use grant funds to pay  
18 costs associated with obtaining a high school equivalency  
19 certificate, including payment of the cost of the high school  
20 equivalency test and up to one retest on each test module, and  
21 any additional fees that may be required in order to obtain an  
22 Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate or an official  
23 transcript of test scores after successful completion of the  
24 high school equivalency test.

25 (c) An applicant for a grant under this Section need not  
26 demonstrate financial need to qualify for the benefits.

1 (d) The Commission may adopt any rules necessary to  
2 implement and administer this Section.

3 (Source: P.A. 99-199, eff. 1-1-16.)

4 (Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 102-1100)

5 Sec. 62. Grants for exonerated persons.

6 (a) In this Section:

7 "Dependent" means a spouse, natural child, legally adopted  
8 child, or child in the legal custody of an exonerated person.

9 "Exonerated person" means an individual who has received a  
10 pardon from the Governor of the State of Illinois stating that  
11 such a pardon is issued on the grounds of innocence of the  
12 crime for which he or she was imprisoned or an individual who  
13 has received a certificate of innocence from a circuit court  
14 pursuant to Section 2-702 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

15 "Satisfactory academic progress" means the qualified  
16 applicant's maintenance of minimum standards of academic  
17 performance, consistent with requirements for maintaining  
18 federal financial aid eligibility, as determined by the  
19 institution of higher learning.

20 (b) Subject to a separate appropriation for this purpose,  
21 the Commission shall, each year, receive and consider  
22 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Both an  
23 exonerated person and all of his or her dependents qualify to  
24 receive a grant ~~Recipients of grants~~ issued by the Commission  
25 in accordance with this Section ~~must be exonerated persons.~~

1 Provided that the recipient is maintaining satisfactory  
2 academic progress, the funds from the grant may be used to pay  
3 up to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of full payment of tuition and  
4 mandatory fees at any public university or public community  
5 college located in this State for either full or part-time  
6 study. This benefit may be used for undergraduate or graduate  
7 study.

8 In addition, a qualified applicant ~~an exonerated person~~  
9 who has not yet received a high school diploma or a State of  
10 Illinois High School Diploma and completes a high school  
11 equivalency preparation course through an Illinois Community  
12 College Board-approved provider may use grant funds to pay  
13 costs associated with obtaining a State of Illinois High  
14 School Diploma, including payment of the cost of the high  
15 school equivalency test and up to one retest on each test  
16 module, and any additional fees that may be required in order  
17 to obtain a State of Illinois High School Diploma or an  
18 official transcript of test scores after successful completion  
19 of the high school equivalency test.

20 (c) An applicant for a grant under this Section need not  
21 demonstrate financial need to qualify for the benefits.

22 (d) The Commission may adopt any rules necessary to  
23 implement and administer this Section.

24 (Source: P.A. 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23.)

25 Section 95. No acceleration or delay. Where this Act makes

1 changes in a statute that is represented in this Act by text  
2 that is not yet or no longer in effect (for example, a Section  
3 represented by multiple versions), the use of that text does  
4 not accelerate or delay the taking effect of (i) the changes  
5 made by this Act or (ii) provisions derived from any other  
6 Public Act.

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
8 2023.