



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5475

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Rep. Camille Y. Lilly

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.125 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall award a nursing in correctional facilities scholarship to each qualified applicant in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees of the eligible institution at which the recipient is enrolled, with specified limits. Provides that scholarship recipients shall also receive a stipend, the amount which shall not exceed \$10,000, to cover other costs of attendance, including but not limited to, reasonable living expenses. Sets forth provisions concerning eligibility, scholarship terms, the total amount of assistance, application for the program, repayment, compliance with State and Federal laws, a report, and rulemaking. Effective July 1, 2025.

LRB103 38479 RJT 68615 b

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. Purpose. The purpose of this amendatory Act of  
5 the 103rd General Assembly is to address healthcare needs  
6 within the Department of Corrections by providing nursing  
7 scholarship assistance to eligible students in the State,  
8 subject to appropriation, and shall require a public service  
9 commitment agreement to work within the Department of  
10 Corrections for a specified duration. The Program shall be  
11 administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and  
12 with the guidance and assistance of the Department.

13 Section 10. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
14 amended by adding Section 65.125 as follows:

15 (110 ILCS 947/65.125 new)

16 Sec. 65.125. Nursing in correctional facilities  
17 scholarship program.

18 (a) In this Section:

19 "Eligible institution" means a public community college, a  
20 private junior college, a hospital-based diploma in nursing  
21 program, or a public or private college or university with a  
22 pre-licensure nursing education program located in this State

1 that has received approval by the Department of Financial and  
2 Professional Regulation for an associate degree in nursing  
3 program, an associate degree in applied sciences in nursing  
4 program, a hospital-based diploma in nursing program, a  
5 baccalaureate degree in nursing program, a graduate degree in  
6 nursing program, or a certificate in a practical nursing  
7 program approved by the Board of Higher Education or any  
8 successor agency with similar authority. An eligible  
9 institution must maintain compliance with all applicable State  
10 and federal laws. An eligible institution is not necessarily  
11 eligible for other programs administered by the Commission and  
12 is not required to meet the definition of institution of  
13 higher learning, qualified institution, or institution as  
14 defined in Section 10 of this Act. The Commission may  
15 establish by rule additional requirements for an eligible  
16 institution.

17 "Department" means the Department of Corrections.

18 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Commission shall award a  
19 nursing in correctional facilities scholarship to each  
20 qualified applicant in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition  
21 and fees of the eligible institution at which the recipient is  
22 enrolled, up to the current maximum amount of tuition and fees  
23 charged to students enrolled in an eligible institution,  
24 except that a recipient enrolled in a non-public institution  
25 may not receive an award of more than the current maximum  
26 amount of tuition and fees charged to students enrolled in an

1 eligible institution at a public university. Scholarship  
2 recipients shall also receive a stipend, the amount which  
3 shall not exceed \$10,000, to cover other costs of attendance,  
4 including, but not limited to, reasonable living expenses.  
5 Stipend amounts for recipients enrolled on less than a  
6 full-time basis shall be prorated by credit hour.

7 (c) The Commission shall, on an annual basis, receive and  
8 consider applications for scholarship assistance under the  
9 program. An applicant is eligible for a scholarship under the  
10 program if the Commission finds that the applicant meets the  
11 following criteria:

12 (1) Is a resident of Illinois.

13 (2) Is enrolled in an eligible institution in the  
14 State on at least a part-time basis.

15 (3) Expressed a commitment to work as a nurse in the  
16 Department of Corrections for a minimum of 3 years.

17 Scholarship recipients shall be selected from among  
18 eligible applicants based on a combination of academic  
19 excellence and financial need, as determined by the  
20 commission. Preference may be given to previous recipients of  
21 a scholarship under the program, provided that the recipient  
22 continues to meet the eligibility requirements set forth in  
23 this Section and maintains satisfactory academic progress as  
24 determined by the institution of higher education at which the  
25 recipient is enrolled.

26 (d) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for an

1 academic year, each recipient of a scholarship awarded under  
2 the program must sign a public service commitment agreement  
3 pledging that, within the one-year period following the  
4 termination of the academic program for which the recipient  
5 was awarded a scholarship, the recipient shall:

6 (1) begin working as a nurse in the Department for a  
7 period of not less than 3 years; and

8 (2) upon request of the Commission and subject to  
9 confirmation with the Department, provide the Commission  
10 with evidence that the recipient is fulfilling or has  
11 fulfilled the terms of the public service agreement  
12 required under this subsection (d).

13 (e) A recipient may receive scholarship assistance under  
14 the program for the equivalent of 8 semesters or 16 quarters of  
15 full-time enrollment.

16 (f) The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded by  
17 the Commission under the program to an individual in any given  
18 fiscal year, when added to other financial assistance awarded  
19 to that individual for that year, may not exceed the cost of  
20 attendance at the eligible institution at which the student is  
21 enrolled.

22 (g) All applications for a scholarship under the program  
23 shall be made to the Commission in a form and manner prescribed  
24 by the Commission. An applicant shall also submit any  
25 supporting documents deemed necessary by the Commission at the  
26 time of application.

1       (h) All scholarship funds distributed under the program  
2       shall be paid to the eligible institution on behalf of the  
3       scholarship recipient.

4       (i) If a recipient of a scholarship awarded under this  
5       Section fails to fulfill the service agreement required under  
6       the program, the Commission shall require the recipient to  
7       repay the amount of the scholarship or scholarships received,  
8       prorated according to the fraction of the service agreement  
9       not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and, if  
10       applicable, reasonable collection fees. Payments received by  
11       the Commission under this Section shall be remitted to the  
12       State Comptroller for deposit into the General Revenue Fund,  
13       except that that portion of a recipient's repayment that  
14       equals the amount in expenses that the Commission has  
15       reasonably incurred in attempting collection from that  
16       recipient shall be remitted to the State Comptroller for  
17       deposit into the ISAC Accounts Receivable Fund.

18       (j) A recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Commission  
19       under the program shall not be in violation of the agreement  
20       entered into pursuant to this Article if the recipient is (i)  
21       serving as a member of the Armed Services or Reserve Forces of  
22       the United States, (ii) a person with a temporary total  
23       disability, as established by a sworn affidavit of a qualified  
24       physician, (iii) taking additional courses, on at least a  
25       half-time basis, related to nursing, or (iv) extenuating and  
26       specific circumstances in which the recipient is unable to

1 achieve full-time employment as a nurse with the Department  
2 and is able to provide evidence of that fact, subject to review  
3 by the Commission. Any extension of the period during which  
4 the service requirement must be fulfilled shall be subject to  
5 limitations of duration established by the Commission and with  
6 the guidance and assistance of the Department.

7 (k) The Commission and the Department shall ensure  
8 compliance with all applicable State and federal laws. This  
9 Section does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender,  
10 religion, sex, color, national origin, ancestry, or any other  
11 protected class or characteristics.

12 (l) In providing guidance and assistance to the  
13 Commission, the Department may collaborate with accredited  
14 State nursing schools to facilitate the scholarship program.  
15 Eligible institutions are encouraged to support and promote  
16 the program among their nursing students.

17 (m) The Department, in consultation with the Commission,  
18 shall provide an annual report on the program's effectiveness,  
19 including the number of recipients, their service periods, and  
20 any challenges faced.

21 (n) The funding for the program shall be subject to  
22 appropriation. Additional contributions from private entities,  
23 philanthropic organizations, or federal grants may supplement  
24 the scholarship.

25 (o) The Commission shall administer the grant program  
26 established by this Section and shall make all necessary and

1 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for its  
2 effective implementation with the guidance and assistance of  
3 the Department.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
5 2025.