



Sen. Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2040

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 2040 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by changing Section 50 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/50)

7 Sec. 50. Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship
8 program.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "Eligible applicant" means a minority student who has
11 graduated from high school or has received a State of
12 Illinois High School Diploma and has maintained a
13 cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0
14 scale, and who by reason thereof is entitled to apply for
15 scholarships to be awarded under this Section.

16 "Minority student" means a student who is any of the

1 following:

2 (1) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person
3 having origins in any of the original peoples of North
4 and South America, including Central America, and who
5 maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment).

6 (2) Asian (a person having origins in any of the
7 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or
8 the Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited
9 to, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,
10 Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and
11 Vietnam).

12 (3) Black or African American (a person having
13 origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa).

14 (4) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban,
15 Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or
16 other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race).

17 (5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a
18 person having origins in any of the original peoples
19 of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).

20 "Qualified bilingual minority applicant" means a
21 qualified student who demonstrates proficiency in a
22 language other than English by (i) receiving a State Seal
23 of Biliteracy from the State Board of Education or (ii)
24 receiving a passing score on an educator licensure target
25 language proficiency test.

26 "Qualified student" means a person (i) who is a

1 resident of this State and a citizen or permanent resident
2 of the United States; (ii) who is a minority student, as
3 defined in this Section; (iii) who, as an eligible
4 applicant, has made a timely application for a minority
5 teaching scholarship under this Section; (iv) who is
6 enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a qualified
7 Illinois institution of higher learning; (v) who is
8 enrolled in a course of study leading to teacher
9 licensure, including alternative teacher licensure, or, if
10 the student is already licensed to teach, in a course of
11 study leading to an additional teaching endorsement or a
12 master's degree in an academic field in which he or she is
13 teaching or plans to teach or who has received one or more
14 College and Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to
15 Section 80 of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness
16 Act and commits to enrolling in a course of study leading
17 to teacher licensure, including alternative teacher
18 licensure; (vi) who maintains a grade point average of no
19 less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and (vii) who continues to
20 advance satisfactorily toward the attainment of a degree.

21 (b) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois
22 minority students to pursue teaching careers at the preschool
23 or elementary or secondary school level and to address and
24 alleviate the teacher shortage crisis in this State described
25 under the provisions of the Transitions in Education Act, each
26 qualified student shall be awarded a minority teacher

1 scholarship to any qualified Illinois institution of higher
2 learning. However, preference may be given to qualified
3 applicants enrolled at or above the junior level.

4 (c) Each minority teacher scholarship awarded under this
5 Section shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and
6 fees and room and board costs of the qualified Illinois
7 institution of higher learning at which the recipient is
8 enrolled, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000; except that in the
9 case of a recipient who does not reside on-campus at the
10 institution at which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the
11 scholarship shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee
12 expenses and a commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of
13 \$5,000. However, if at least \$2,850,000 is appropriated in a
14 given fiscal year for the Minority Teachers of Illinois
15 scholarship program, then, in each fiscal year thereafter,
16 each scholarship awarded under this Section shall be in an
17 amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees and room and
18 board costs of the qualified Illinois institution of higher
19 learning at which the recipient is enrolled, up to an annual
20 maximum of \$7,500; except that in the case of a recipient who
21 does not reside on-campus at the institution at which he or she
22 is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship shall be sufficient
23 to pay tuition and fee expenses and a commuter allowance, up to
24 an annual maximum of \$7,500.

25 (d) The total amount of minority teacher scholarship
26 assistance awarded by the Commission under this Section to an

1 individual in any given fiscal year, when added to other
2 financial assistance awarded to that individual for that year,
3 shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the institution at
4 which the student is enrolled. If the amount of minority
5 teacher scholarship to be awarded to a qualified student as
6 provided in subsection (c) of this Section exceeds the cost of
7 attendance at the institution at which the student is
8 enrolled, the minority teacher scholarship shall be reduced by
9 an amount equal to the amount by which the combined financial
10 assistance available to the student exceeds the cost of
11 attendance.

12 (e) The maximum number of academic terms for which a
13 qualified student can receive minority teacher scholarship
14 assistance shall be 8 semesters or 12 quarters.

15 (f) In any academic year for which an eligible applicant
16 under this Section accepts financial assistance through the
17 Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, as authorized by
18 Section 551 et seq. of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the
19 applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance
20 awarded under this Section.

21 (g) All applications for minority teacher scholarships to
22 be awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission
23 on forms which the Commission shall provide for eligible
24 applicants. The form of applications and the information
25 required to be set forth therein shall be determined by the
26 Commission, and the Commission shall require eligible

1 applicants to submit with their applications such supporting
2 documents or recommendations as the Commission deems
3 necessary.

4 (h) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,
5 payment of any minority teacher scholarship awarded under this
6 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship
7 funds distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be
8 paid to the institution and used only for payment of the
9 tuition and fee and room and board expenses incurred by the
10 student in connection with his or her attendance at a
11 qualified Illinois institution of higher learning. Any
12 minority teacher scholarship awarded under this Section shall
13 be applicable to 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment. If a
14 qualified student withdraws from enrollment prior to
15 completion of the first semester or quarter for which the
16 minority teacher scholarship is applicable, the school shall
17 refund to the Commission the full amount of the minority
18 teacher scholarship.

19 (i) The Commission shall administer the minority teacher
20 scholarship aid program established by this Section and shall
21 make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this
22 Section for its effective implementation.

23 (j) When an appropriation to the Commission for a given
24 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all
25 qualified students, the Commission shall allocate the
26 appropriation in accordance with this subsection. If funds are

1 insufficient to provide all qualified students with a
2 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission
3 shall allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal
4 year to qualified students who submit a complete application
5 form on or before a date specified by the Commission based on
6 the following order of priority:

7 (1) To students who received a scholarship under this
8 Section in the prior academic year and who remain eligible
9 for a minority teacher scholarship under this Section.

10 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (k), to
11 students who demonstrate financial need, as determined by
12 the Commission.

13 (k) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subsection (j), at
14 least 35% of the funds appropriated for scholarships awarded
15 under this Section in each fiscal year shall be reserved for
16 qualified male minority applicants, with priority being given
17 to qualified Black male applicants beginning with fiscal year
18 2023. If the Commission does not receive enough applications
19 from qualified male minorities on or before January 1 of each
20 fiscal year to award 35% of the funds appropriated for these
21 scholarships to qualified male minority applicants, then the
22 Commission may award a portion of the reserved funds to
23 qualified female minority applicants in accordance with
24 subsection (j).

25 Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$2,850,000
26 but less than \$4,200,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal

1 year for scholarships awarded under this Section, then at
2 least 10% of the funds appropriated shall be reserved for
3 qualified bilingual minority applicants, with priority being
4 given to qualified bilingual minority applicants who are
5 enrolled in an educator preparation program with a
6 concentration in bilingual, bicultural education. Beginning
7 with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$4,200,000 is appropriated
8 in a given fiscal year for the Minority Teachers of Illinois
9 scholarship program, then at least 30% of the funds
10 appropriated shall be reserved for qualified bilingual
11 minority applicants, with priority being given to qualified
12 bilingual minority applicants who are enrolled in an educator
13 preparation program with a concentration in bilingual,
14 bicultural education. Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at
15 least \$2,850,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal year for
16 scholarships awarded under this Section but the Commission
17 does not receive enough applications from qualified bilingual
18 minority applicants on or before January 1 of that fiscal year
19 to award at least 10% of the funds appropriated to qualified
20 bilingual minority applicants, then the Commission may, in its
21 discretion, award a portion of the reserved funds to other
22 qualified students in accordance with subsection (j).

23 (1) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
24 academic year, each recipient of a minority teacher
25 scholarship awarded under this Section shall be required by
26 the Commission to sign an agreement under which the recipient

1 pledges that, within the one-year period following the
2 termination of the program for which the recipient was awarded
3 a minority teacher scholarship, the recipient (i) shall begin
4 teaching for a period of not less than one year for each year
5 of scholarship assistance he or she was awarded under this
6 Section; (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a
7 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool,
8 elementary school, or secondary school at which no less than
9 30% of the enrolled students are minority students in the year
10 during which the recipient begins teaching at the school or
11 may instead, if the recipient received a scholarship as a
12 qualified bilingual minority applicant, fulfill this teaching
13 obligation in a program in transitional bilingual education
14 pursuant to Article 14C of the School Code or in a school in
15 which 20 or more English learner students in the same language
16 classification are enrolled; and (iii) shall, upon request by
17 the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence that he
18 or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching
19 agreement provided for in this subsection.

20 (m) If a recipient of a minority teacher scholarship
21 awarded under this Section fails to fulfill the teaching
22 obligation set forth in subsection (l) of this Section, the
23 Commission shall require the recipient to repay the amount of
24 the scholarships received, prorated according to the fraction
25 of the teaching obligation not completed, at a rate of
26 interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable

1 collection fees. The Commission is authorized to establish
2 rules relating to its collection activities for repayment of
3 scholarships under this Section. All repayments collected
4 under this Section shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller
5 for deposit into the State's General Revenue Fund.

6 (n) A recipient of minority teacher scholarship shall not
7 be considered in violation of the agreement entered into
8 pursuant to subsection (l) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a
9 full time basis as a graduate student in a course of study
10 related to the field of teaching at a qualified Illinois
11 institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not in excess
12 of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the United
13 States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total disability
14 for a period of time not to exceed 3 years as established by
15 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) is seeking and
16 unable to find full time employment as a teacher at an Illinois
17 public, private, or parochial preschool or elementary or
18 secondary school that satisfies the criteria set forth in
19 subsection (l) of this Section and is able to provide evidence
20 of that fact; (v) becomes a person with a permanent total
21 disability as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified
22 physician; (vi) is taking additional courses, on at least a
23 half-time basis, needed to obtain licensure as a teacher in
24 Illinois; or (vii) is fulfilling teaching requirements
25 associated with other programs administered by the Commission
26 and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a

1 period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.

2 (o) Scholarship recipients under this Section who withdraw
3 from a program of teacher education but remain enrolled in
4 school to continue their postsecondary studies in another
5 academic discipline shall not be required to commence
6 repayment of their Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship
7 so long as they remain enrolled in school on a full-time basis
8 or if they can document for the Commission special
9 circumstances that warrant extension of repayment.

10 (p) If the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship
11 program does not expend at least 90% of the amount
12 appropriated for the program in a given fiscal year for 3
13 consecutive fiscal years and the Commission does not receive
14 enough applications from the groups identified in subsection
15 (k) on or before January 1 in each of those fiscal years to
16 meet the percentage reserved for those groups under subsection
17 (k), then up to 3% of amount appropriated for the program for
18 each of next 3 fiscal years shall be allocated to increasing
19 awareness of the program and for the recruitment of Black male
20 applicants. The Commission shall make a recommendation to the
21 General Assembly by January 1 of the year immediately
22 following the end of that third fiscal year regarding whether
23 the amount allocated to increasing awareness and recruitment
24 should continue.

25 (q) Each qualified Illinois institution of higher learning
26 that receives funds from the Minority Teachers of Illinois

1 scholarship program shall host an annual information session
2 at the institution about the program for teacher candidates of
3 color in accordance with rules adopted by the Commission.
4 Additionally, the institution shall ensure that each
5 scholarship recipient enrolled at the institution meets with
6 an academic advisor at least once per academic year to
7 facilitate on-time completion of the recipient's educator
8 preparation program.

9 (r) The changes made to this Section by Public Act 101-654
10 will first take effect with awards made for the 2022-2023
11 academic year.

12 (s) The Commission shall establish and administer a
13 student teaching stipend program. Under the program, subject
14 to a specific and distinct appropriation for those express
15 purposes, the Commission shall receive and consider
16 applications for additional funds from recipients of
17 scholarships under this Section who are student teaching. The
18 Commission shall select stipend recipients from among
19 applicants who are in financial need. All applications for
20 stipends under this subsection (s) shall be made to the
21 Commission in a form as set forth by the Commission. The form
22 of application and the information required shall be
23 determined by the Commission, and the Commission shall require
24 applicants to submit with their applications such supporting
25 documents as the Commission deems necessary.

26 Beginning with grants for the 2024-2025 academic year,

1 notwithstanding the maximum award amounts listed in this
2 subsection (c), certain recipients may receive an additional
3 payment to assist in paying other expenses during the year in
4 which the recipient is engaged in student teaching. The amount
5 of the payment shall be uniform and determined yearly by the
6 Commission based on the available funds. Regardless of the
7 total scholarship amount received, no more than \$7,500
8 attributable to this single year will be subject to the
9 repayment provisions of subsection (m).

10 The Commission shall make all necessary and proper rules
11 not inconsistent with this subsection (s) for its effective
12 implementation.

13 (Source: P.A. 101-654, eff. 3-8-21; 102-465, eff. 1-1-22;
14 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23.)".