



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB3138

Introduced 2/6/2024, by Sen. Sara Feigenholtz

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 505/8

from Ch. 23, par. 5008

Amends the Children and Family Services Act. In a provision requiring the Department of Children and Family Services to award post-secondary education scholarships and fee waivers to eligible students, removes a provision that conditions the renewal of awarded scholarships and fee waivers on students continuing to work toward graduation. Instead provides that while students shall not be required to maintain a specified minimum grade point average to continue to receive scholarships and fee waivers, students must be making satisfactory progress toward completing their degree at a community college, university, or college. Requires the Department to adopt rules identifying the criteria for "satisfactory progress toward completing a degree" (rather than the criteria for "continuing to work toward graduation"). Removes a provision requiring a community college or public university that an applicant attends to waive any tuition and fee amounts that exceed the amounts paid to the applicant under the State's Monetary Award Program. Effective immediately.

LRB103 37690 KTG 67817 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended  
5 by changing Section 8 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/8) (from Ch. 23, par. 5008)

7 Sec. 8. Scholarships and fee waivers; tuition waiver.

8 (a) Each year the Department shall select a minimum of 53  
9 students (at least 4 of whom shall be children of veterans) to  
10 receive scholarships and fee waivers which will enable them to  
11 attend and complete their post-secondary education at a  
12 community college, university, or college. Youth shall be  
13 selected from among the youth for whom the Department has  
14 court-ordered legal responsibility, youth who aged out of care  
15 at age 18 or older, or youth formerly under care who have been  
16 adopted or who have been placed in private guardianship.  
17 Recipients must have earned a high school diploma from an  
18 accredited institution or a State of Illinois High School  
19 Diploma or have met the State criteria for high school  
20 graduation before the start of the school year for which they  
21 are applying for the scholarship and waiver. Scholarships and  
22 fee waivers shall be available to students for at least 5  
23 years. While students shall not be required to maintain a

1 specified minimum grade point average to continue to receive  
2 scholarships and fee waivers under this Section, students must  
3 be making satisfactory progress toward completing their degree  
4 at a community college, university, or college.  ~~, provided~~  
5 ~~they are continuing to work toward graduation.~~ Unused  
6 scholarship dollars and fee waivers shall be reallocated to  
7 new recipients. The ~~No later than January 1, 2015, the~~  
8 Department shall promulgate rules identifying the criteria for  
9 "satisfactory progress toward completing a degree ~~continuing~~  
10 ~~to work toward graduation~~" and for reallocating unused  
11 scholarships and fee waivers. Selection shall be made on the  
12 basis of several factors, including, but not limited to,  
13 scholastic record, aptitude, and general interest in higher  
14 education. The selection committee shall include at least 2  
15 individuals formerly under the care of the Department who have  
16 completed their post-secondary education. In accordance with  
17 this Act, tuition scholarships and fee waivers shall be  
18 available to such students at any university or college  
19 maintained by the State of Illinois. The Department shall  
20 provide maintenance and school expenses, except tuition and  
21 fees, during the academic years to supplement the students'  
22 earnings or other resources so long as they consistently  
23 maintain scholastic records which are acceptable to their  
24 schools and to the Department. Students may attend other  
25 colleges and universities, if scholarships are awarded to  
26 them, and receive the same benefits for maintenance and other

1 expenses as those students attending any Illinois State  
2 community college, university, or college under this Section.  
3 Beginning with recipients receiving scholarships and waivers  
4 in August 2014, the Department shall collect data and report  
5 annually to the General Assembly on measures of success,  
6 including (i) the number of youth applying for and receiving  
7 scholarships or waivers, (ii) the percentage of scholarship or  
8 waiver recipients who complete their college or university  
9 degree within 5 years, (iii) the average length of time it  
10 takes for scholarship or waiver recipients to complete their  
11 college or university degree, (iv) the reasons that  
12 scholarship or waiver recipients are discharged or fail to  
13 complete their college or university degree, (v) when  
14 available, youths' outcomes 5 years and 10 years after being  
15 awarded the scholarships or waivers, and (vi) budget  
16 allocations for maintenance and school expenses incurred by  
17 the Department.

18 (b) Youth shall receive a tuition and fee waiver to assist  
19 them in attending and completing their post-secondary  
20 education at any community college, university, or college  
21 maintained by the State of Illinois if they are youth for whom  
22 the Department has court-ordered legal responsibility, youth  
23 who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or youth formerly  
24 under care who have been adopted and were the subject of an  
25 adoption assistance agreement or who have been placed in  
26 private guardianship and were the subject of a subsidized

1 guardianship agreement.

2 To receive a waiver under this subsection, an applicant  
3 must:

4 (1) have earned a high school diploma from an  
5 accredited institution or a State of Illinois High School  
6 Diploma or have met the State criteria for high school  
7 graduation before the start of the school year for which  
8 the applicant is applying for the waiver;

9 (2) enroll in a qualifying post-secondary education  
10 before the applicant reaches the age of 26; and

11 (3) apply for federal and State grant assistance by  
12 completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

13 The community college or public university that an  
14 applicant attends must waive any tuition and fee amounts that  
15 exceed the amounts paid to the applicant under the federal  
16 Pell Grant Program ~~or the State's Monetary Award Program.~~

17 Tuition and fee waivers shall be available to a student  
18 for at least the first 5 years the student is enrolled in a  
19 community college, university, or college maintained by the  
20 State of Illinois so long as the student makes satisfactory  
21 progress toward completing the student's degree. The age  
22 requirement and 5-year cap on tuition and fee waivers under  
23 this subsection shall be waived and eligibility for tuition  
24 and fee waivers shall be extended for any applicant or student  
25 who the Department determines was unable to enroll in a  
26 qualifying post-secondary school or complete an academic term

1 because the applicant or student: (i) was called into active  
2 duty with the United States Armed Forces; (ii) was deployed  
3 for service in the United States Public Health Service  
4 Commissioned Corps; or (iii) volunteered in the Peace Corps or  
5 the AmeriCorps. The Department shall extend eligibility for a  
6 qualifying applicant or student by the total number of months  
7 or years during which the applicant or student served on  
8 active duty with the United States Armed Forces, was deployed  
9 for service in the United States Public Health Service  
10 Commissioned Corps, or volunteered in the Peace Corps or the  
11 AmeriCorps. The number of months an applicant or student  
12 served on active duty with the United States Armed Forces  
13 shall be rounded up to the next higher year to determine the  
14 maximum length of time to extend eligibility for the applicant  
15 or student.

16 The Department may provide the student with a stipend to  
17 cover maintenance and school expenses, except tuition and  
18 fees, during the academic years to supplement the student's  
19 earnings or other resources so long as the student  
20 consistently maintains scholastic records which are acceptable  
21 to the student's school and to the Department.

22 The Department shall develop outreach programs to ensure  
23 that youths who qualify for the tuition and fee waivers under  
24 this subsection who are high school students in grades 9  
25 through 12 or who are enrolled in a high school equivalency  
26 testing program are aware of the availability of the tuition

1 and fee waivers.

2 (c) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall provide  
3 eligible youth an apprenticeship stipend to cover those costs  
4 associated with entering and sustaining through completion an  
5 apprenticeship, including, but not limited to fees, tuition  
6 for classes, work clothes, rain gear, boots, and  
7 occupation-specific tools. The following youth may be eligible  
8 for the apprenticeship stipend provided under this subsection:  
9 youth for whom the Department has court-ordered legal  
10 responsibility; youth who aged out of care at age 18 or older;  
11 or youth formerly under care who have been adopted and were the  
12 subject of an adoption assistance agreement or who have been  
13 placed in private guardianship and were the subject of a  
14 subsidized guardianship agreement.

15 To receive a stipend under this subsection, an applicant  
16 must:

17 (1) be enrolled in an apprenticeship training program  
18 approved or recognized by the Illinois Department of  
19 Employment Security or an apprenticeship program approved  
20 by the United States Department of Labor;

21 (2) not be a recipient of a scholarship or fee waiver  
22 under subsection (a) or (b); and

23 (3) be under the age of 26 before enrolling in a  
24 qualified apprenticeship program.

25 Apprenticeship stipends shall be available to an eligible  
26 youth for a maximum of 5 years after the youth enrolls in a

1 qualifying apprenticeship program so long as the youth makes  
2 satisfactory progress toward completing the youth's  
3 apprenticeship. The age requirement and 5-year cap on the  
4 apprenticeship stipend provided under this subsection shall be  
5 extended for any applicant who the Department determines was  
6 unable to enroll in a qualifying apprenticeship program  
7 because the applicant: (i) was called into active duty with  
8 the United States Armed Forces; (ii) was deployed for service  
9 in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps;  
10 or (iii) volunteered in the Peace Corps or the AmeriCorps. The  
11 Department shall extend eligibility for a qualifying applicant  
12 by the total number of months or years during which the  
13 applicant served on active duty with the United States Armed  
14 Forces, was deployed for service in the United States Public  
15 Health Service Commissioned Corps, or volunteered in the Peace  
16 Corps or the AmeriCorps. The number of months an applicant  
17 served on active duty with the United States Armed Forces  
18 shall be rounded up to the next higher year to determine the  
19 maximum length of time to extend eligibility for the  
20 applicant.

21 The Department shall develop outreach programs to ensure  
22 that youths who qualify for the apprenticeship stipends under  
23 this subsection who are high school students in grades 9  
24 through 12 or who are enrolled in a high school equivalency  
25 testing program are aware of the availability of the  
26 apprenticeship stipend.



1 (Source: P.A. 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23; 103-22, eff. 8-8-23;  
2 103-154, eff. 6-30-23.)

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