

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 Sections 50, 52, and 65.15 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 General  
12 Educational Development Certification 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 either (i)  
17 Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial  
18 groups in Africa); (ii) Hispanic (a person of Spanish or  
19 Portuguese culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central  
20 America, or the Caribbean islands, regardless of race);  
21 (iii) Asian American (a person with origins in any of the  
22 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the  
23 Indian subcontinent, including Pakistan, and the Pacific  
24 Islands, including, among others, Hawaii, Melanesia,  
25 Micronesia and Polynesia); or (iv) Native American (a  
26 person who is a member of a federally or state recognized  
27 Indian tribe, or whose parents or grandparents have such  
28 membership) and to include the native people of Alaska.

29 "Qualified student" means a person (i) who is a  
30 resident of this State and a citizen or permanent resident  
31 of the United States; (ii) who is a minority student, as  
32 defined in this Section; (iii) who, as an eligible

1 applicant, has made a timely application for a minority  
2 teaching scholarship under this Section; (iv) who is  
3 enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a qualified  
4 Illinois institution of higher learning; (v) who is  
5 enrolled in a course of study leading to teacher  
6 certification, including alternative teacher  
7 certification; (vi) who maintains a grade point average of  
8 no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and (vii) who continues to  
9 advance satisfactorily toward the attainment of a degree.

10 (b) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois  
11 minority students to pursue teaching careers at the preschool  
12 or elementary or secondary school level, each qualified student  
13 shall be awarded a minority teacher scholarship to any  
14 qualified Illinois institution of higher learning. However,  
15 preference may be given to qualified applicants enrolled at or  
16 above the junior level.

17 (c) Each minority teacher scholarship awarded under this  
18 Section shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and  
19 fees and room and board costs of the qualified Illinois  
20 institution of higher learning at which the recipient is  
21 enrolled, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000; except that in the  
22 case of a recipient who does not reside on-campus at the  
23 institution at which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the  
24 scholarship shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee expenses  
25 and a commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000.

26 (d) The total amount of minority teacher scholarship  
27 assistance awarded by the Commission under this Section to an  
28 individual in any given fiscal year, when added to other  
29 financial assistance awarded to that individual for that year,  
30 shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the institution at  
31 which the student is enrolled. If the amount of minority  
32 teacher scholarship to be awarded to a qualified student as  
33 provided in subsection (c) of this Section exceeds the cost of  
34 attendance at the institution at which the student is enrolled,  
35 the minority teacher scholarship shall be reduced by an amount  
36 equal to the amount by which the combined financial assistance

1 available to the student exceeds the cost of attendance.

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

5 (f) In any academic year for which an eligible applicant  
6 under this Section accepts financial assistance through the  
7 Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, as authorized by  
8 Section 551 et seq. of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the  
9 applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance  
10 awarded under this Section.

11 (g) All applications for minority teacher scholarships to  
12 be awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission  
13 on forms which the Commission shall provide for eligible  
14 applicants. The form of applications and the information  
15 required to be set forth therein shall be determined by the  
16 Commission, and the Commission shall require eligible  
17 applicants to submit with their applications such supporting  
18 documents or recommendations as the Commission deems  
19 necessary.

20 (h) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,  
21 payment of any minority teacher scholarship awarded under this  
22 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship  
23 funds distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be  
24 paid to the institution and used only for payment of the  
25 tuition and fee and room and board expenses incurred by the  
26 student in connection with his or her attendance as an  
27 undergraduate student at a qualified Illinois institution of  
28 higher learning. Any minority teacher scholarship awarded  
29 under this Section shall be applicable to 2 semesters or 3  
30 quarters of enrollment. If a qualified student withdraws from  
31 enrollment prior to completion of the first semester or quarter  
32 for which the minority teacher scholarship is applicable, the  
33 school shall refund to the Commission the full amount of the  
34 minority teacher scholarship.

35 (i) The Commission shall administer the minority teacher  
36 scholarship aid program established by this Section and shall

1 make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this  
2 Section for its effective implementation.

3 (j) When an appropriation to the Commission for a given  
4 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all  
5 qualified students, the Commission shall allocate the  
6 appropriation in accordance with this subsection. If funds are  
7 insufficient to provide all qualified students with a  
8 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission shall  
9 allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal year  
10 on the basis of the date the Commission receives a complete  
11 application form.

12 (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j) or any  
13 other provision of this Section, at least 30% of the funds  
14 appropriated for scholarships awarded under this Section in  
15 each fiscal year shall be reserved for qualified male minority  
16 applicants. If the Commission does not receive enough  
17 applications from qualified male minorities on or before  
18 January 1 of each fiscal year to award 30% of the funds  
19 appropriated for these scholarships to qualified male minority  
20 applicants, then the Commission may award a portion of the  
21 reserved funds to qualified female minority applicants.

22 (l) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any  
23 academic year, each recipient of a minority teacher scholarship  
24 awarded under this Section shall be required by the Commission  
25 to sign an agreement under which the recipient pledges that,  
26 within the one-year period following the termination of the  
27 program for which the recipient was awarded a minority teacher  
28 scholarship, the recipient (i) shall begin teaching for a  
29 period of not less than one year for each year of scholarship  
30 assistance he or she was awarded under this Section; and (ii)  
31 shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a nonprofit Illinois  
32 public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary school, or  
33 secondary school at which no less than 30% of the enrolled  
34 students are minority students in the year during which the  
35 recipient begins teaching at the school; and (iii) shall, upon  
36 request by the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence

1 that he or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the  
2 teaching agreement provided for in this subsection.

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

15 (n) A recipient of minority teacher scholarship shall not  
16 be considered in violation of the agreement entered into  
17 pursuant to subsection (l) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a  
18 full time basis as a graduate student in a course of study  
19 related to the field of teaching at a qualified Illinois  
20 institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not in excess  
21 of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the United  
22 States; (iii) is temporarily totally disabled for a period of  
23 time not to exceed 3 years as established by sworn affidavit of  
24 a qualified physician; (iv) is seeking and unable to find full  
25 time employment as a teacher at an Illinois public, private, or  
26 parochial preschool or elementary or secondary school that  
27 satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection (l) of this  
28 Section and is able to provide evidence of that fact; ~~or~~ (v)  
29 becomes permanently totally disabled as established by sworn  
30 affidavit of a qualified physician; (vi) is taking additional  
31 courses, on at least a half-time basis, needed to obtain  
32 certification as a teacher in Illinois; or (vii) is fulfilling  
33 teaching requirements associated with other programs  
34 administered by the Commission and cannot concurrently fulfill  
35 them under this Section in a period of time equal to the length  
36 of the teaching obligation.

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

9 (Source: P.A. 91-670, eff. 12-22-99; 92-845, eff. 1-1-03.)

10 (110 ILCS 947/52)

11 Sec. 52. Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program.

12 (a) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois  
13 students, especially minority students, to pursue teaching  
14 careers, especially in teacher shortage disciplines (which  
15 shall be defined to include early childhood education) or at  
16 hard-to-staff schools (as defined by the Commission in  
17 consultation with the State Board of Education), the Commission  
18 shall, each year, receive and consider applications for  
19 scholarship assistance under this Section. An applicant is  
20 eligible for a scholarship under this Section when the  
21 Commission finds that the applicant is:

22 (1) a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;

23 (2) a resident of Illinois;

24 (3) a high school graduate or a person who has received  
25 a General Educational Development Certificate;

26 (4) enrolled or accepted for enrollment at or above the  
27 junior level, on at least a half-time basis, at an Illinois  
28 institution of higher learning; and

29 (5) pursuing a postsecondary course of study leading to  
30 initial certification or pursuing additional course work  
31 needed to gain State Board of Education approval to teach,  
32 including alternative teacher certification.

33 (b) Recipients shall be selected from among applicants  
34 qualified pursuant to subsection (a) based on a combination of  
35 the following criteria as set forth by the Commission: (1)

1 academic excellence; (2) status as a minority student as  
2 defined in Section 50; and (3) financial need. Preference may  
3 be given to previous recipients of assistance under this  
4 Section, provided they continue to maintain eligibility and  
5 maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the  
6 institution of higher learning at which they enroll.

7 (c) Each scholarship awarded under this Section shall be in  
8 an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees and room and  
9 board costs of the Illinois institution of higher learning at  
10 which the recipient is enrolled, up to an annual maximum of  
11 \$5,000; except that in the case of a recipient who does not  
12 reside on-campus at the institution of higher learning at which  
13 he or she is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship shall be  
14 sufficient to pay tuition and fee expenses and a commuter  
15 allowance, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000. For recipients  
16 who agree to teach in a teacher shortage discipline or at a  
17 hard-to-staff school under subsection (i) of this Section, the  
18 Commission may, by rule and subject to appropriation, increase  
19 the annual maximum amount to \$10,000. If a recipient agrees to  
20 teach in both a teacher shortage discipline and at a  
21 hard-to-staff school under subsection (i) of this Section, the  
22 Commission may increase the amount of the scholarship awarded  
23 by up to an additional \$5,000.

24 (d) The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded by  
25 the Commission under this Section to an individual in any given  
26 fiscal year, when added to other financial assistance awarded  
27 to that individual for that year, shall not exceed the cost of  
28 attendance at the institution of higher learning at which the  
29 student is enrolled.

30 (e) A recipient may receive up to 4 semesters or 6 quarters  
31 of scholarship assistance under this Section.

32 (f) All applications for scholarship assistance to be  
33 awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission in a  
34 form as set forth by the Commission. The form of application  
35 and the information required to be set forth therein shall be  
36 determined by the Commission, and the Commission shall require

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

3 (g) Subject to a separate appropriation made for such  
4 purposes, payment of any scholarship awarded under this Section  
5 shall be determined by the Commission. There shall be a  
6 separate appropriation made for scholarships awarded to  
7 recipients who agree to teach in a teacher shortage discipline  
8 or at a hard-to-staff school under subsection (i) of this  
9 Section. The Commission may use for scholarship assistance  
10 under this Section (i) all funds appropriated for scholarships  
11 under this Section that were formerly known as ITEACH Teacher  
12 Shortage Scholarships and (ii) all funds appropriated for  
13 scholarships under Section 65.65 of this Act (repealed by this  
14 amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly), formerly known as  
15 Illinois Future Teacher Corps Scholarships.

16 All scholarship funds distributed in accordance with this  
17 Section shall be paid to the institution on behalf of the  
18 recipients. Scholarship funds are applicable toward 2  
19 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment within an academic year.

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

24 (i) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any  
25 academic year, each recipient of a scholarship awarded under  
26 this Section shall be required by the Commission to sign an  
27 agreement under which the recipient pledges that, within the  
28 one-year period following the termination of the academic  
29 program for which the recipient was awarded a scholarship, the  
30 recipient: (i) shall begin teaching for a period of not less  
31 than 5 years, (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a  
32 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or  
33 an Illinois public elementary or secondary school, and (iii)  
34 shall, upon request of the Commission, provide the Commission  
35 with evidence that he or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the  
36 terms of the teaching agreement provided for in this



1 subsection.

2 (j) If a recipient of a scholarship awarded under this  
3 Section fails to fulfill the teaching obligation set forth in  
4 subsection (i) of this Section, the Commission shall require  
5 the recipient to repay the amount of the scholarships received,  
6 prorated according to the fraction of the teaching obligation  
7 not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and if applicable,  
8 reasonable collection fees. The Commission is authorized to  
9 establish rules relating to its collection activities for  
10 repayment of scholarships under this Section. Payments  
11 received by the Commission under this subsection (j) shall be  
12 remitted to the State Comptroller for deposit into the General  
13 Revenue Fund, except that that portion of a recipient's  
14 repayment that equals the amount in expenses that the  
15 Commission has reasonably incurred in attempting collection  
16 from that recipient shall be remitted to the State Comptroller  
17 for deposit into the Commission's Accounts Receivable Fund.

18 (k) A recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Commission  
19 under this Section shall not be in violation of the agreement  
20 entered into pursuant to subsection (i) if the recipient (i)  
21 enrolls on a full-time basis as a graduate student in a course  
22 of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of  
23 higher learning; (ii) is serving as a member of the armed  
24 services of the United States; (iii) is temporarily totally  
25 disabled, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified  
26 physician; ~~or~~ (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time  
27 employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the criteria  
28 set forth in subsection (i) and is able to provide evidence of  
29 that fact; (v) is taking additional courses, on at least a  
30 half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a teacher in  
31 Illinois; or (vi) is fulfilling teaching requirements  
32 associated with other programs administered by the Commission  
33 and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a  
34 period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.  
35 Any such extension of the period during which the teaching  
36 requirement must be fulfilled shall be subject to limitations

1 of duration as established by the Commission.

2 (Source: P.A. 92-845, eff. 1-1-03; 93-21, eff. 7-1-03.)

3 (110 ILCS 947/65.15)

4 Sec. 65.15. Special education teacher scholarships.

5 (a) There shall be awarded annually 250 scholarships to  
6 persons qualifying as members of any ~~either~~ of the following  
7 groups:

8 (1) Students who are otherwise qualified to receive a  
9 scholarship as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this  
10 Section and who make application to the Commission for such  
11 scholarship and agree to take courses that will prepare the  
12 student for the teaching of children described in Section  
13 14-1 of the School Code.

14 (2) Persons holding a valid certificate issued under  
15 the laws relating to the certification of teachers and who  
16 make application to the Commission for such scholarship and  
17 agree to take courses that will prepare them for the  
18 teaching of children described in Section 14-1 of the  
19 School Code.

20 (3) Persons who (A) have graduated high school; (B)  
21 have not been certified as a teacher; and (C) make  
22 application to the Commission for such scholarship and  
23 agree to take courses that will prepare them for the  
24 teaching of children described in Section 14-1 of the  
25 School Code.

26 Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be issued  
27 pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Commission;  
28 provided that no rule or regulation promulgated by the State  
29 Board of Education prior to the effective date of this  
30 amendatory Act of 1993 pursuant to the exercise of any right,  
31 power, duty, responsibility or matter of pending business  
32 transferred from the State Board of Education to the Commission  
33 under this Section shall be affected thereby, and all such  
34 rules and regulations shall become the rules and regulations of  
35 the Commission until modified or changed by the Commission in

1 accordance with law.

2 For the purposes of this Section scholarships awarded each  
3 school year shall be deemed to be issued on July 1 of the year  
4 prior to the start of the postsecondary school term and all  
5 calculations for use of the scholarship shall be based on such  
6 date. Each scholarship shall entitle its holder to exemption  
7 from fees as provided in subsection (a) of Section 65.40 while  
8 enrolled in a special education program of teacher education,  
9 for a period of not more than 4 calendar years and shall be  
10 available for use at any time during such period of study  
11 except as provided in subsection (b) of Section 65.40.

12 Scholarships issued to holders of a valid certificate  
13 issued under the laws relating to the certification of teachers  
14 as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection may also  
15 entitle the holder thereof to a program of teacher education  
16 that will prepare the student for the teaching of children  
17 described in Section 14-1 of the School Code at the graduate  
18 level.

19 (b) ~~Each year,~~ The principal, or his or her designee, of an  
20 approved ~~each recognized public, private and parochial~~ high  
21 school ~~maintaining the twelfth grade~~ shall certify to the  
22 Commission, for the names and addresses of students who are  
23 Illinois residents and are completing an application, that the  
24 students ~~with the intent to prepare to teach in any recognized~~  
25 ~~public, private, or parochial school of Illinois and~~ ranked  
26 scholastically in the upper one-half of their graduating class  
27 ~~or, for those not yet graduated, whose scholastic rank in the~~  
28 ~~4 year high school course of study~~ at the end of the sixth  
29 semester ~~is in the upper one half of their class.~~

30 (c) Each holder of a scholarship must furnish proof to the  
31 Commission, in such form and at such intervals as the  
32 Commission prescribes, of the holder's continued enrollment in  
33 a teacher education program qualifying the holder for the  
34 scholarship. Any holder of a scholarship who fails to register  
35 in a special education program of teacher education at the  
36 university within 10 days after the commencement of the term,

1 quarter or semester immediately following the receipt of the  
2 scholarship or who, having registered, withdraws from the  
3 university or transfers out of teacher education, shall  
4 thereupon forfeit the right to use it and it may be granted to  
5 the person having the next highest rank as shown on the list  
6 held by the Commission. If the person having the next highest  
7 rank, within 10 days after notification thereof by the  
8 Commission, fails to register at any such university in a  
9 special education program of teacher education, or who, having  
10 registered, withdraws from the university or transfers out of  
11 teacher education, the scholarship may then be granted to the  
12 person shown on the list as having the rank next below such  
13 person.

14 (d) Any person who has accepted a scholarship under the  
15 preceding subsections of this Section must, within one year  
16 after graduation from or termination of enrollment in a teacher  
17 education program, begin teaching at a nonprofit Illinois  
18 public, private, or parochial preschool or elementary or  
19 secondary school for a period of at least 2 of the 5 years  
20 immediately following that graduation or termination,  
21 excluding, however, from the computation of that 5 year period  
22 (i) any time up to 3 years spent in the military service,  
23 whether such service occurs before or after the person  
24 graduates; (ii) any time that person is enrolled full-time in  
25 an academic program related to the field of teaching leading to  
26 a graduate or postgraduate degree; (iii) the time that person  
27 is temporarily totally disabled for a period of time not to  
28 exceed 3 years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a  
29 qualified physician; (iv) the time that person is seeking and  
30 unable to find full time employment as a teacher at an Illinois  
31 public, private, or parochial school; ~~or~~ (v) the time that  
32 person is taking additional courses, on at least a half-time  
33 basis, needed to obtain certification as a teacher in Illinois;  
34 or (vi) the time that person is fulfilling teaching  
35 requirements associated with other programs administered by  
36 the Commission if he or she cannot concurrently fulfill them

1 under this Section in a period of time equal to the length of  
2 the teaching obligation.

3 A person who has accepted a scholarship under the preceding  
4 subsections of this Section and who has been unable to fulfill  
5 the teaching requirements of this Section may receive a  
6 deferment from the obligation of repayment under this  
7 subsection (d) under guidelines established by the Commission;  
8 provided that no guideline established for any such purpose by  
9 the State Board of Education prior to the effective date of  
10 this amendatory Act of 1993 shall be affected by the transfer  
11 to the Commission of the responsibility for administering and  
12 implementing the provisions of this Section, and all guidelines  
13 so established shall become the guidelines of the Commission  
14 until modified or changed by the Commission.

15 Any such person who fails to fulfill this teaching  
16 requirement shall pay to the Commission the amount of tuition  
17 waived by virtue of his or her acceptance of the scholarship,  
18 together with interest at 5% per year on that amount. However,  
19 this obligation to repay the amount of tuition waived plus  
20 interest does not apply when the failure to fulfill the  
21 teaching requirement results from the death or adjudication as  
22 a person under legal disability of the person holding the  
23 scholarship, and no claim for repayment may be filed against  
24 the estate of such a decedent or person under legal disability.  
25 Payments received by the Commission under this subsection (d)  
26 shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for deposit in the  
27 General Revenue Fund. Each person receiving a scholarship shall  
28 be provided with a description of the provisions of this  
29 subsection (d) at the time he or she qualifies for the benefits  
30 of such a scholarship.

31 (e) This Section is basically the same as Sections 30-1,  
32 30-2, 30-3, and 30-4a of the School Code, which are repealed by  
33 this amendatory Act of 1993, and shall be construed as a  
34 continuation of the teacher scholarship program established by  
35 that prior law, and not as a new or different teacher  
36 scholarship program. The State Board of Education shall

1 transfer to the Commission, as the successor to the State Board  
2 of Education for all purposes of administering and implementing  
3 the provisions of this Section, all books, accounts, records,  
4 papers, documents, contracts, agreements, and pending business  
5 in any way relating to the teacher scholarship program  
6 continued under this Section; and all scholarships at any time  
7 awarded under that program by, and all applications for any  
8 such scholarships at any time made to, the State Board of  
9 Education shall be unaffected by the transfer to the Commission  
10 of all responsibility for the administration and  
11 implementation of the teacher scholarship program continued  
12 under this Section. The State Board of Education shall furnish  
13 to the Commission such other information as the Commission may  
14 request to assist it in administering this Section.

15 (Source: P.A. 91-496, eff. 8-13-99; 92-845, eff. 1-1-03.)

16 (110 ILCS 922/Act rep.)

17 Section 10. The Child Development Teacher Scholarship Act  
18 is repealed.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on July  
20 1, 2005, except that the changes to Section 65.15 of the Higher  
21 Education Student Assistance Act take effect on July 1, 2006.