



## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

HB0079

Introduced 1/14/2009, by Rep. Lou Lang

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Higher Education Scholarship Act. Allows scholarships to be awarded to entering freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors at community colleges, colleges, and universities, whether public or private, located in this State. Establishes Illinois residency requirements, minimum grade point average requirements, and other requirements that the student must meet to be eligible for a scholarship. Provides that the scholarship, subject to the amounts appropriated by the General Assembly, includes tuition and mandatory fees (in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount allowed to be awarded under the Monetary Award Program for a student at a private institution). Authorizes the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to promulgate rules relating to the scholarships. Effective July 1, 2009.

LRB096 03089 NHT 13105 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Higher Education Scholarship Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance  
8 Commission.

9 "Eligible high school" means:

10 (1) a public high school located in Illinois;

11 (2) a private school located in Illinois where children  
12 are taught the branches of education taught to children of  
13 corresponding age and grade in public high schools in  
14 Illinois and which has been recognized by the Commission;  
15 or

16 (3) a public or private secondary school located in  
17 another state and accredited by one of the following  
18 regional agencies:

19 (A) The Southern Association of Colleges and  
20 Schools.

21 (B) The New England Association of Schools and  
22 Colleges.

23 (C) The Middle States Association of Colleges and

1 Schools.

2 (D) The North Central Association of Colleges and  
3 Schools.

4 (E) The Northwestern Association of Schools and  
5 Colleges.

6 (F) The Western Association of Schools and  
7 Colleges.

8 "Freshman student" means a student at an institution of  
9 higher education who has attempted less than 31 semester hours.

10 "Grade point average" means the numbered grade average  
11 calculated using a 4.0 scale.

12 "Institution of higher education" means a community  
13 college, college, or university, whether public or private,  
14 located in this State.

15 "Junior student" means a student at an institution of  
16 higher education who has attempted at least 61 semester hours  
17 but less than 91 semester hours.

18 "Mandatory fees" means fees approved by the Illinois  
19 Student Assistance Commission that are charged by an  
20 institution of higher education to every student enrolled in  
21 that institution of higher education, regardless of the  
22 student's program of study.

23 "Matriculated status" means being recognized as a student  
24 in a defined program of study leading to a degree at an  
25 institution of higher education.

26 "Scholarship" means the scholarship awarded under this

1 Act.

2 "Semester hours" includes each semester hour attempted,  
3 whether remedial or for credit toward a degree, but shall not  
4 include any semester hour attempted before graduating from high  
5 school or earning a general educational development (GED)  
6 equivalency diploma.

7 "Senior student" means a student at an institution of  
8 higher education who has attempted at least 91 semester hours  
9 but less than 128 semester hours.

10 "Sophomore student" means a student at an institution of  
11 higher education who has attempted at least 31 semester hours  
12 but less than 61 semester hours.

13 "Title IV" means Title IV of the Higher Education Act of  
14 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C.A. Sec. 1070, et seq.).

15 Section 10. Ineligibility for scholarship. A student is  
16 ineligible for a scholarship under this Act if the student:

17 (1) is not a United States citizen or a permanent  
18 resident alien who meets the definition of an eligible  
19 noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements;

20 (2) is in default on a federal Title IV educational  
21 loan or a State of Illinois educational loan, provided that  
22 a student who is otherwise eligible and has fully repaid  
23 the defaulted loan shall be eligible to obtain a  
24 scholarship for future academic terms but not  
25 retroactively;

1           (3) owes a refund on a federal Title IV student  
2 financial aid program or an Illinois student financial aid  
3 program, provided that a student who is otherwise eligible  
4 and has fully paid the refund owed shall be eligible to  
5 obtain a scholarship for future academic terms but not  
6 retroactively; or

7           (4) does not meet each qualification listed under  
8 Section 15, 20, 25, or 30 of this Act applicable to the  
9 student.

10           Section 15. Freshman eligibility for scholarship. To be  
11 eligible for a scholarship, an entering freshman student  
12 seeking a degree at an institution of higher education shall:

13           (1) meet residency requirements by meeting the  
14 requirements to be classified as a legal resident of  
15 Illinois as established by the program rules promulgated by  
16 the Commission, which shall be based upon the in-state  
17 tuition policy of the governing board of the institution of  
18 higher education in which the student is enrolled;

19           (2) meet achievement standards by having graduated  
20 from an eligible high school with a cumulative grade point  
21 average of at least 3.0 while meeting the curriculum  
22 requirements of his or her program of study, or, in the  
23 case of a student who is otherwise qualified but did not  
24 graduate from an eligible high school, by earning a  
25 cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an

1 institution of higher education at the end of the semester  
2 in which the student has attempted 30 semester hours,  
3 provided that the student shall be eligible to receive a  
4 retroactive scholarship for the student's freshman year to  
5 be paid at the end of the freshman year; and

6 (3) meet enrollment standards by being admitted,  
7 enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a  
8 matriculated status.

9 Section 20. Sophomore eligibility for scholarship. To be  
10 eligible for a scholarship, a sophomore student seeking a  
11 degree at an institution of higher education shall:

12 (1) meet residency requirements by meeting the  
13 requirements to be classified as a legal resident of  
14 Illinois as established by the program rules promulgated by  
15 the Commission, which shall be based upon the in-state  
16 tuition policy of the governing board of the institution of  
17 higher education in which the student is enrolled;

18 (2) meet achievement standards by meeting the  
19 following criteria:

20 (A) earning a cumulative grade point average of at  
21 least 3.0 at an institution of higher education at the  
22 end of the semester in which the student has attempted  
23 30 semester hours; and

24 (B) maintaining satisfactory academic progress in  
25 a course of study in accordance with the standards and

1 practices used for federal Title IV programs by the  
2 institution of higher education in which the student is  
3 enrolled; and

4 (3) meet enrollment standards by being admitted,  
5 enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a  
6 matriculated status.

7 Section 25. Junior eligibility for scholarship. To be  
8 eligible for a scholarship, a junior student seeking a degree  
9 at an institution of higher education shall:

10 (1) meet residency requirements by meeting the  
11 requirements to be classified as a legal resident of  
12 Illinois as established by the program rules promulgated by  
13 the Commission, which shall be based upon the in-state  
14 tuition policy of the governing board of the institution of  
15 higher education in which the student is enrolled;

16 (2) meet achievement standards by meeting the  
17 following criteria:

18 (A) earning a cumulative grade point average of at  
19 least 3.0 at an institution of higher education at the  
20 end of the semester in which the student has attempted  
21 60 semester hours; and

22 (B) maintaining satisfactory academic progress in  
23 a course of study in accordance with the standards and  
24 practices used for federal Title IV programs by the  
25 institution of higher education in which the student is

1 enrolled; and

2 (3) meet enrollment standards by being admitted,  
3 enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a  
4 matriculated status.

5 Section 30. Senior eligibility for scholarship. To be  
6 eligible for a scholarship, a senior student seeking a degree  
7 at an institution of higher education shall:

8 (1) meet residency requirements by meeting the  
9 requirements to be classified as a legal resident of  
10 Illinois as established by the program rules promulgated by  
11 the Commission, which shall be based upon the in-state  
12 tuition policy of the governing board of the institution of  
13 higher education in which the student is enrolled;

14 (2) meet achievement standards by meeting the  
15 following criteria:

16 (A) meeting all achievement standards for  
17 scholarship eligibility in his or her junior year;

18 (B) earning a cumulative grade point average of at  
19 least 3.0 at an institution of higher education at the  
20 end of the semester in which the student has attempted  
21 90 semester hours; and

22 (C) maintaining satisfactory academic progress in  
23 a course of study in accordance with the standards and  
24 practices used for federal Title IV programs by the  
25 institution of higher education in which the student is



1 enrolled; and

2 (3) meet enrollment standards by being admitted,  
3 enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a  
4 matriculated status.

5 Section 35. Cessation of eligibility.

6 (a) A student who fails to maintain a cumulative grade  
7 point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the semester in  
8 which the student has attempted 30 semester hours may attend  
9 the next 30 semester hours without a scholarship. An otherwise  
10 eligible student who regains a cumulative grade point average  
11 of at least 3.0 at the end of the semester in which the student  
12 has attempted 60 semester hours may requalify for a  
13 scholarship.

14 (b) For students eligible for a scholarship under this Act,  
15 no minimum number of hours of enrollment is required.

16 (c) Except as set out in subsection (d) of this Section, a  
17 student may receive the scholarship until the first of these  
18 events:

19 (1) the student has earned a baccalaureate degree; or

20 (2) the student has attempted at any institution of  
21 higher education a total of 127 semester hours.

22 (d) A student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program  
23 designed to be more than 127 semester hours in length is  
24 eligible to receive the scholarship for the lesser of:

25 (1) a total of 150 attempted semester hours; or

1           (2) the number of hours required for graduation if the  
2           student has a cumulative grade point average of at least  
3           3.0 after the semester in which the student attempted 127  
4           semester hours.

5           Section 37. Condition for receipt of scholarship. As a  
6           condition for receiving a scholarship under this Act, a student  
7           must certify that he or she has applied for other federal and  
8           State grants.

9           Section 40. Scholarship amount. Subject to the amounts  
10          appropriated by the General Assembly, a scholarship awarded  
11          under this Act shall include (i) for a public institution of  
12          higher education, tuition and approved mandatory fees or (ii)  
13          for a private institution of higher education, tuition and  
14          approved mandatory fees in an amount not to exceed the maximum  
15          amount allowed to be awarded each academic year under Section  
16          35 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. However, a  
17          scholarship may be applied only to tuition and mandatory fees  
18          not covered by any federal grant.

19          Section 990. Rules. The Commission is authorized to  
20          promulgate rules not inconsistent with this Act relating to  
21          scholarships described in this Act.

22          Section 995. Funding. The funding for the scholarships

1 described in this Act shall be subject to annual appropriations  
2 enacted by the General Assembly, which shall establish the  
3 total amount of funding for these scholarships.

4 Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
5 2009.