

HB3225



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB3225

by Rep. Norine Hammond

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/52

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program.

LRB098 02580 NHT 32585 b

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 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by changing Section 52 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/52)

7 Sec. 52. Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program.

8 (a) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois
9 students, especially minority students, to pursue teaching
10 careers, especially in teacher shortage disciplines (which
11 shall be defined to include early childhood education) or at
12 hard-to-staff schools (as defined by the ~~the~~ Commission in
13 consultation with the State Board of Education), to provide
14 those students with the crucial mentoring, guidance, and
15 in-service support that will significantly increase the
16 likelihood that they will complete their full teaching
17 commitments and elect to continue teaching in targeted
18 disciplines and hard-to-staff schools, and to ensure that
19 students in this State will continue to have access to a pool
20 of highly-qualified teachers, the Commission shall combine the
21 best practices and methods and programmatic functions of the
22 Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program and the Golden Apple
23 Foundation for Excellence in Teaching's Golden Apple Scholars

1 of Illinois Program into one program. The consolidated program
2 shall be known as the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program
3 and shall be managed by the Golden Apple Foundation for
4 Excellence in Teaching.

5 (1) This consolidated program shall be fully
6 operational before July 1, 2012. The existing programs, the
7 Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program and the Golden Apple
8 Scholars Program, shall continue to exist and be governed
9 as they have under this Section before the effective date
10 of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly and any
11 associated administrative rules, but shall also begin a
12 transition period commencing on the first day of the 2010
13 fiscal year and ending on the last day of the 2013 fiscal
14 year.

15 (2) During the transition period, the Commission
16 shall, in consultation with the Golden Apple Foundation,
17 establish rules governing the transition period and
18 related fund transfers and to facilitate coordination and
19 implementation of the consolidated program. Eligible
20 students in this State may continue to apply for Illinois
21 Future Teacher Corps scholarships under the current rules
22 governing such applications during the transition period.
23 Fiscal Year 2012 shall be the last year that such
24 scholarships are available.

25 (3) The Commission shall, by March 30, 2010, develop an
26 estimate of General Revenue Funds that it expects will

1 remain unexpended at the end of FY 2010 from the FY 2010
2 appropriation for the Illinois Future Teacher Corps. No
3 later than April 15, 2010, the Commission shall cause to be
4 transferred funds comprising 85% of this estimated amount
5 to the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.
6 The Commission shall subsequently transfer funding from
7 the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program to the Golden
8 Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching on the
9 following schedule and in the following amounts:

10 (A) FY 2011: an amount equal to 58% of the total
11 combined appropriation for the Golden Apple Foundation
12 for Excellence in Teaching and the Illinois Future
13 Teacher Corps Program;

14 (B) FY 2012: an amount equal to 80% of the combined
15 total appropriation for the Golden Apple Foundation
16 for Excellence in Teaching and the Illinois Future
17 Teacher Corps Program;

18 (C) FY 2013: the entire appropriation shall be
19 designated for the Golden Apple Foundation for
20 Excellence in Teaching.

21 (4) Following the consolidation of the 2 programs, at
22 least 30% of Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program
23 scholarships available each year shall be awarded to
24 students residing in counties having a population of less
25 than 500,000.

26 (5) Following the consolidation of the 2 programs, the

1 Auditor General shall prepare an annual audit of the
2 operations and finances of the Golden Apple Scholars of
3 Illinois Program. This audit shall be provided to the
4 Governor and the General Assembly.

5 (a-5) The Commission shall, each year until Fiscal Year
6 2011, receive and consider applications for scholarship
7 assistance under this Section. An applicant is eligible for an
8 Illinois Future Teacher Corps scholarship under this Section
9 when the Commission finds that the applicant is:

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

11 (2) a resident of Illinois;

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

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

17 (5) pursuing a postsecondary course of study leading to
18 initial certification or pursuing additional course work
19 needed to gain State Board of Education approval to teach,
20 including alternative teacher certification.

21 (b) Recipients shall be selected from among applicants
22 qualified pursuant to subsection (a) based on a combination of
23 the following criteria as set forth by the Commission until
24 Fiscal Year 2011: (1) academic excellence; (2) status as a
25 minority student as defined in Section 50; and (3) financial
26 need. Preference may be given to previous recipients of

1 assistance under this Section, provided they continue to
2 maintain eligibility and maintain satisfactory academic
3 progress as determined by the institution of higher learning at
4 which they enroll.

5 In each year until the consolidation of the 2 programs
6 under subsection (a) of this Section has been completed, to
7 support mentoring, guidance, and in-service support for
8 teaching candidates in order to increase the likelihood that
9 they will complete their full teaching commitments and elect to
10 continue teaching in targeted disciplines and hard-to-staff
11 schools, a minimum of 200 awards shall be allocated to
12 participants in the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program.

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

1 hard-to-staff school under subsection (i) of this Section, the
2 Commission may increase the amount of the scholarship awarded
3 by up to an additional \$5,000.

4 (d) The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded by
5 the Commission under this Section to an individual in any given
6 fiscal year, when added to other financial assistance awarded
7 to that individual for that year, shall not exceed the cost of
8 attendance at the institution of higher learning at which the
9 student is enrolled.

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

12 (f) All applications for scholarship assistance to be
13 awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission in a
14 form as set forth by the Commission. The form of application
15 and the information required to be set forth therein shall be
16 determined by the Commission, and the Commission shall require
17 eligible applicants to submit with their applications such
18 supporting documents as the Commission deems necessary.
19 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, following the
20 completion of the transition of funding of the Illinois Future
21 Teacher Corps to the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in
22 Teaching, all applications for scholarship assistance under
23 this Section shall be in a form determined by the Golden Apple
24 Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

25 (g) Subject to a separate appropriation made for such
26 purposes, payment of any scholarship awarded under this Section

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

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

16 (h) The Commission shall administer the scholarship
17 program established by this Section and shall make all
18 necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this Section
19 for its effective implementation.

20 (i) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
21 academic year, each recipient of a scholarship awarded under
22 this Section shall be required by the Commission to sign an
23 agreement under which the recipient pledges that, within the
24 one-year period following the termination of the academic
25 program for which the recipient was awarded a scholarship, the
26 recipient: (i) shall begin teaching for a period of not less

1 than 5 years, (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a
2 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or
3 an Illinois public elementary or secondary school, and (iii)
4 shall, upon request of the Commission, provide the Commission
5 with evidence that he or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the
6 terms of the teaching agreement provided for in this
7 subsection.

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

24 (k) A recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Commission
25 under this Section shall not be in violation of the agreement
26 entered into pursuant to subsection (i) if the recipient (i)

1 enrolls on a full-time basis as a graduate student in a course
2 of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of
3 higher learning; (ii) is serving as a member of the armed
4 services of the United States; (iii) is temporarily totally
5 disabled, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified
6 physician; (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time
7 employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the criteria
8 set forth in subsection (i) and is able to provide evidence of
9 that fact; (v) is taking additional courses, on at least a
10 half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a teacher in
11 Illinois; or (vi) is fulfilling teaching requirements
12 associated with other programs administered by the Commission
13 and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a
14 period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.
15 Any such extension of the period during which the teaching
16 requirement must be fulfilled shall be subject to limitations
17 of duration as established by the Commission.

18 (Source: P.A. 95-939, eff. 1-1-09; 96-411, eff. 8-13-09.)