



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

SB1791

Introduced 2/15/2013, by Sen. Iris Y. Martinez

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/52

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act with respect to the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program. Provides that the transition period for the consolidation of the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program and the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program into one program shall end no later than the last day (instead of end on the last day) of the 2013 fiscal year. Provides that no later than the last day of the 2013 fiscal year, the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program shall no longer exist as a separate existing program. Provides that during the transition period, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission may (instead of shall) establish rules. Provides that for Fiscal Year 2013 and any subsequent fiscal year (instead of just for Fiscal Year 2013), the entire appropriation under these provisions shall be designated for the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching. For Fiscal Year 2014 and for each fiscal year thereafter, provides that all amounts appropriated to the Commission for the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching shall be used by the Golden Apple Foundation for the Golden Apple Scholars for Illinois Program or for such other purposes and programs as are determined by the Golden Apple Foundation for the Foundation's stated purposes and to develop and support teacher excellence in this State, especially in schools of need; requires the Auditor General to prepare an annual audit. Effective immediately.

LRB098 09198 NHT 39337 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 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; Golden
8 Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

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

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

6 (1) This consolidated program shall be fully
7 operational before July 1, 2012. The existing programs, the
8 Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program and the Golden Apple
9 Scholars Program, shall continue to exist and be governed
10 as they have under this Section before the effective date
11 of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly and any
12 associated administrative rules, but shall also begin a
13 transition period commencing on the first day of the 2010
14 fiscal year and ending no later than ~~on~~ the last day of the
15 2013 fiscal year; and, no later than the last day of the
16 2013 fiscal year, the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program
17 shall no longer exist as a separate existing program.

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

1 scholarships are available.

2 (3) The Commission shall, by March 30, 2010, develop an
3 estimate of General Revenue Funds that it expects will
4 remain unexpended at the end of FY 2010 from the FY 2010
5 appropriation for the Illinois Future Teacher Corps. No
6 later than April 15, 2010, the Commission shall cause to be
7 transferred funds comprising 85% of this estimated amount
8 to the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.
9 The Commission shall subsequently transfer funding from
10 the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program to the Golden
11 Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching on the
12 following schedule and in the following amounts:

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

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

21 (C) FY 2013 and any subsequent fiscal year: the
22 entire appropriation shall be designated for the
23 Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

24 (4) Following the consolidation of the 2 programs, at
25 least 30% of Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program
26 scholarships available each year shall be awarded to

1 students residing in counties having a population of less
2 than 500,000.

3 (5) Following the consolidation of the 2 programs, the
4 Auditor General shall prepare an annual audit of the
5 operations and finances of the Golden Apple Scholars of
6 Illinois Program. This audit shall be provided to the
7 Governor and the General Assembly.

8 (6) For Fiscal Year 2014 and for each fiscal year
9 thereafter, all amounts appropriated to the Commission for
10 the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching
11 shall be used by the Golden Apple Foundation for the Golden
12 Apple Scholars for Illinois Program or for such other
13 purposes and programs as are determined by the Golden Apple
14 Foundation for the Foundation's stated purposes and to
15 develop and support teacher excellence in this State,
16 especially in schools of need. The Auditor General shall
17 prepare an annual audit of the expenditures made by the
18 Golden Apple Foundation from appropriations for such
19 purposes, and the audit must be provided to the Governor
20 and the General Assembly.

21 (a-5) The Commission shall, each year until Fiscal Year
22 2011, receive and consider applications for scholarship
23 assistance under this Section. An applicant is eligible for an
24 Illinois Future Teacher Corps scholarship under this Section
25 when the Commission finds that the applicant is:

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

- 1 (2) a resident of Illinois;
- 2 (3) a high school graduate or a person who has received
- 3 a General Educational Development Certificate;
- 4 (4) enrolled or accepted for enrollment at or above the
- 5 junior level, on at least a half-time basis, at an Illinois
- 6 institution of higher learning; and
- 7 (5) pursuing a postsecondary course of study leading to
- 8 initial certification or pursuing additional course work
- 9 needed to gain State Board of Education approval to teach,
- 10 including alternative teacher certification.

11 (b) Recipients shall be selected from among applicants

12 qualified pursuant to subsection (a) based on a combination of

13 the following criteria as set forth by the Commission until

14 Fiscal Year 2011: (1) academic excellence; (2) status as a

15 minority student as defined in Section 50; and (3) financial

16 need. Preference may be given to previous recipients of

17 assistance under this Section, provided they continue to

18 maintain eligibility and maintain satisfactory academic

19 progress as determined by the institution of higher learning at

20 which they enroll.

21 In each year until the consolidation of the 2 programs

22 under subsection (a) of this Section has been completed, to

23 support mentoring, guidance, and in-service support for

24 teaching candidates in order to increase the likelihood that

25 they will complete their full teaching commitments and elect to

26 continue teaching in targeted disciplines and hard-to-staff

1 schools, a minimum of 200 awards shall be allocated to
2 participants in the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program.

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

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

26 (e) A recipient may receive up to 4 semesters or 6 quarters

1 of scholarship assistance under this Section.

2 (f) All applications for scholarship assistance to be
3 awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission in a
4 form as set forth by the Commission. The form of application
5 and the information required to be set forth therein shall be
6 determined by the Commission, and the Commission shall require
7 eligible applicants to submit with their applications such
8 supporting documents as the Commission deems necessary.
9 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, following the
10 completion of the transition of funding of the Illinois Future
11 Teacher Corps to the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in
12 Teaching, all applications for scholarship assistance under
13 this Section shall be in a form determined by the Golden Apple
14 Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

15 (g) Subject to a separate appropriation made for such
16 purposes, payment of any scholarship awarded under this Section
17 shall be determined by the Commission. There shall be a
18 separate appropriation made for scholarships awarded to
19 recipients who agree to teach in a teacher shortage discipline
20 or at a hard-to-staff school under subsection (i) of this
21 Section. The Commission may use for scholarship assistance
22 under this Section (i) all funds appropriated for scholarships
23 under this Section that were formerly known as ITEACH Teacher
24 Shortage Scholarships and (ii) all funds appropriated for
25 scholarships under Section 65.65 of this Act (repealed by this
26 amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly), formerly known as

1 Illinois Future Teacher Corps Scholarships.

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

6 (h) The Commission shall administer the scholarship
7 program established by this Section and shall make all
8 necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this Section
9 for its effective implementation.

10 (i) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
11 academic year, each recipient of a scholarship awarded under
12 this Section shall be required by the Commission to sign an
13 agreement under which the recipient pledges that, within the
14 one-year period following the termination of the academic
15 program for which the recipient was awarded a scholarship, the
16 recipient: (i) shall begin teaching for a period of not less
17 than 5 years, (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a
18 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or
19 an Illinois public elementary or secondary school, and (iii)
20 shall, upon request of the Commission, provide the Commission
21 with evidence that he or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the
22 terms of the teaching agreement provided for in this
23 subsection.

24 (j) If a recipient of a scholarship awarded under this
25 Section fails to fulfill the teaching obligation set forth in
26 subsection (i) of this Section, the Commission shall require

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

14 (k) A recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Commission
15 under this Section shall not be in violation of the agreement
16 entered into pursuant to subsection (i) if the recipient (i)
17 enrolls on a full-time basis as a graduate student in a course
18 of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of
19 higher learning; (ii) is serving as a member of the armed
20 services of the United States; (iii) is temporarily totally
21 disabled, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified
22 physician; (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time
23 employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the criteria
24 set forth in subsection (i) and is able to provide evidence of
25 that fact; (v) is taking additional courses, on at least a
26 half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a teacher in

1 Illinois; or (vi) is fulfilling teaching requirements
2 associated with other programs administered by the Commission
3 and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a
4 period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.
5 Any such extension of the period during which the teaching
6 requirement must be fulfilled shall be subject to limitations
7 of duration as established by the Commission.

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

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
10 becoming law.