



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

SB1565

Introduced 2/20/2015, by Sen. William E. Brady

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.90 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to award grants to students in financial need who are enrolled for at least 15 credit hours in an institution of higher learning. Provides that the Commission shall receive funding for the grants through appropriations; the amount to be appropriated for the grant program each fiscal year shall equal the total amount appropriated for higher education from the General Revenue Fund for the 2015 fiscal year; no amounts may be appropriated for higher education from the General Revenue Fund beginning with the 2016 fiscal year other than amounts appropriated for these grants; and the amount of each grant shall equal the amount appropriated for the grant program for a given fiscal year divided by the number of applicants who qualify for a grant. Requires each grant recipient to sign an agreement under which the recipient agrees to the following terms: (1) if a grant recipient graduates from an institution in 4 years or less, he or she must repay one-half of the total amount of grants received; (2) if a grant recipient does not graduate from an institution in 4 years or less, he or she must repay the total amount of grants received; and (3) if the grant recipient resides in this State immediately following graduation from an institution, the Commission shall forgive, for each year of residency, one-eighth of the remaining grant amount owed. Effective immediately.

LRB099 09130 NHT 29325 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 adding Section 65.90 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.90 new)

7 Sec. 65.90. Illinois Grant Program.

8 (a) Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, the
9 Commission shall, each year, consider applications for grant
10 assistance under this Section. An applicant is eligible for a
11 grant under this Section if the Commission finds that the
12 applicant meets all of the following qualifications:

13 (1) He or she is a United States citizen or eligible
14 noncitizen.

15 (2) He or she is a resident of this State or, if a
16 dependent for income tax purposes, the parent whose
17 information is used on the Free Application for Federal
18 Student Aid is a resident of this State. State residency
19 shall be determined by the filing of a State income tax
20 return.

21 (3) If a male, he has complied with federal Selective
22 Service registration requirements.

23 (4) He or she has not been incarcerated.

1 (5) He or she is enrolled, for at least 15 credit
2 hours, in an institution of higher learning and has not
3 earned a bachelor's degree yet. A grant recipient must
4 submit proof to the Commission each semester that he or she
5 is still enrolled in the institution of higher learning.

6 (6) He or she demonstrates financial need, as
7 determined by the Commission.

8 (7) He or she maintains satisfactory academic
9 progress, as determined by the institution.

10 (8) He or she is not in default on any educational loan
11 or does not owe a refund on any State or federal
12 educational grant.

13 (b) Each year the Commission shall award grants under this
14 Section among applicants qualified pursuant to subsection (a)
15 of this Section. The Commission shall receive funding for the
16 grants through appropriations. The amount to be appropriated
17 for the grant program each fiscal year shall equal the total
18 amount appropriated for higher education from the General
19 Revenue Fund for the 2015 fiscal year. No amounts may be
20 appropriated for higher education from the General Revenue Fund
21 beginning with the 2016 fiscal year other than amounts
22 appropriated for the purposes of this Section. The amount of
23 each grant shall equal the amount appropriated for the grant
24 program for a given fiscal year divided by the number of
25 applicants who qualify for a grant.

26 (c) The total amount of grant assistance awarded by the

1 Commission under this Section to an individual in any given
2 fiscal year, when added to other financial assistance awarded
3 to that individual for that year, shall not exceed the cost of
4 attendance at the institution at which the student is enrolled.

5 (d) Payment of any grant under this Section shall be
6 determined by the Commission. All grant funds distributed in
7 accordance with this Section shall be paid to the institution
8 on behalf of the recipients. Grant funds are applicable toward
9 tuition for 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment within an
10 academic year.

11 (e) Prior to receiving grant assistance for any academic
12 year, each recipient of a grant under this Section shall be
13 required by the Commission to sign an agreement under which the
14 recipient agrees to the following terms:

15 (1) If a grant recipient graduates from an institution
16 in 4 years or less, he or she must repay one-half of the
17 total amount of grants received under this Section.

18 (2) If a grant recipient does not graduate from an
19 institution in 4 years or less, he or she must repay the
20 total amount of grants received under this Section.

21 (3) If the grant recipient resides in this State
22 immediately following graduation from an institution, the
23 Commission shall forgive, for each year of residency,
24 one-eighth of the remaining grant amount owed.

25 Each recipient shall, upon request of the Commission,
26 provide the Commission with evidence that he or she is

1 fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the agreement provided
2 for in this subsection (e).

3 The Commission is authorized to establish rules relating to
4 its collection activities for repayment of grants under this
5 Section, including the imposition of reasonable collection
6 fees.

7 (f) A recipient of a grant under this Section is not in
8 violation of the agreement entered into pursuant to subsection
9 (e) of this Section if the recipient (i) is serving as a member
10 of the armed services of the United States; (ii) is enrolled in
11 a graduate program following graduation from an institution;
12 (iii) is temporarily totally disabled, as established by sworn
13 affidavit of a qualified physician; or (iii) cannot fulfill the
14 obligation due to his or her death, disability, or
15 incompetency, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified
16 physician. No claim for repayment may be filed against the
17 estate of such a decedent or incompetent. Any extension of the
18 period during which the obligation must be fulfilled is subject
19 to limitations of duration as established by the Commission.

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

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
25 becoming law.