

SB1711



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

SB1711

Introduced 2/20/2015, by Sen. Chapin Rose

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/35

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that no applicant, other than a non-traditional student, is eligible for monetary award program consideration after receiving assistance for 4 academic years or, if a particular academic program requires more than 4 academic years to complete, the normal time it takes to complete the program.

LRB099 06162 NHT 26220 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 35 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/35)

7 Sec. 35. Monetary award program.

8 (a) The Commission shall, each year, receive and consider
9 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Subject
10 to a separate appropriation for such purposes, an applicant is
11 eligible for a grant under this Section when the Commission
12 finds that the applicant:

13 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or
14 permanent resident of the United States; and

15 (2) in the absence of grant assistance, will be
16 deterred by financial considerations from completing an
17 educational program at the qualified institution of his or
18 her choice.

19 (b) The Commission shall award renewals only upon the
20 student's application and upon the Commission's finding that
21 the applicant:

22 (1) has remained a student in good standing;

23 (2) remains a resident of this State; and

1 (3) is in a financial situation that continues to
2 warrant assistance.

3 (c) All grants shall be applicable only to tuition and
4 necessary fee costs. The Commission shall determine the grant
5 amount for each student, which shall not exceed the smallest of
6 the following amounts:

7 (1) subject to appropriation, \$5,468 for fiscal year
8 2009, \$5,968 for fiscal year 2010, and \$6,468 for fiscal
9 year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, or such lesser
10 amount as the Commission finds to be available, during an
11 academic year;

12 (2) the amount which equals 2 semesters or 3 quarters
13 tuition and other necessary fees required generally by the
14 institution of all full-time undergraduate students; or

15 (3) such amount as the Commission finds to be
16 appropriate in view of the applicant's financial
17 resources.

18 Subject to appropriation, the maximum grant amount for
19 students not subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection (c)
20 must be increased by the same percentage as any increase made
21 by law to the maximum grant amount under subdivision (1) of
22 this subsection (c).

23 "Tuition and other necessary fees" as used in this Section
24 include the customary charge for instruction and use of
25 facilities in general, and the additional fixed fees charged
26 for specified purposes, which are required generally of

1 nongrant recipients for each academic period for which the
2 grant applicant actually enrolls, but do not include fees
3 payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent
4 deposits which are refundable in whole or in part. The
5 Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with this
6 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of
7 tuition and other necessary fees.

8 (d) No applicant, including those presently receiving
9 scholarship assistance under this Act, is eligible for monetary
10 award program consideration under this Act after receiving a
11 baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit
12 hours of award payments. No applicant, other than a
13 non-traditional student, as defined by the Commission, is
14 eligible for monetary award program consideration under this
15 Section after receiving assistance for 4 academic years or, if
16 a particular academic program requires more than 4 academic
17 years to complete, the normal time it takes to complete the
18 program, as determined by the institution.

19 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to
20 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with
21 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The Commission
22 shall notify applicants that grant assistance is contingent
23 upon the availability of appropriated funds.

24 (e-5) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is an
25 important purpose of the Monetary Award Program to facilitate
26 access to college both for students who pursue postsecondary

1 education immediately following high school and for those who
2 pursue postsecondary education later in life, particularly
3 Illinoisans who are dislocated workers with financial need and
4 who are seeking to improve their economic position through
5 education. For the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years, the
6 Commission shall give additional and specific consideration to
7 the needs of dislocated workers with the intent of allowing
8 applicants who are dislocated workers an opportunity to secure
9 financial assistance even if applying later than the general
10 pool of applicants. The Commission's consideration shall
11 include, in determining the number of grants to be offered, an
12 estimate of the resources needed to serve dislocated workers
13 who apply after the Commission initially suspends award
14 announcements for the upcoming regular academic year, but prior
15 to the beginning of that academic year. For the purposes of
16 this subsection (e-5), a dislocated worker is defined as in the
17 federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

18 (f) The Commission may request appropriations for deposit
19 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund. Monies deposited
20 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund may be expended
21 exclusively for one purpose: to make Monetary Award Program
22 grants to eligible students. Amounts on deposit in the Monetary
23 Award Program Reserve Fund may not exceed 2% of the current
24 annual State appropriation for the Monetary Award Program.

25 The purpose of the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund is
26 to enable the Commission each year to assure as many students

1 as possible of their eligibility for a Monetary Award Program
2 grant and to do so before commencement of the academic year.
3 Moneys deposited in this Reserve Fund are intended to enhance
4 the Commission's management of the Monetary Award Program,
5 minimizing the necessity, magnitude, and frequency of
6 adjusting award amounts and ensuring that the annual Monetary
7 Award Program appropriation can be fully utilized.

8 (g) The Commission shall determine the eligibility of and
9 make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit
10 institutions in accordance with the criteria set forth in this
11 Section. The eligibility of applicants enrolled at such
12 for-profit institutions shall be limited as follows:

13 (1) Beginning with the academic year 1997, only to
14 eligible first-time freshmen and first-time transfer
15 students who have attained an associate degree.

16 (2) Beginning with the academic year 1998, only to
17 eligible freshmen students, transfer students who have
18 attained an associate degree, and students who receive a
19 grant under paragraph (1) for the academic year 1997 and
20 whose grants are being renewed for the academic year 1998.

21 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all
22 eligible students.

23 (Source: P.A. 98-967, eff. 8-15-14.)