



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

SB2975

Introduced 2/18/2016, by Sen. Bill Cunningham

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.80b new
110 ILCS 947/65.25

Amends the School Code. Provides that, subject to appropriation to the State Board of Education, there is created an agriculture education teacher grant program to fund personal services costs for agriculture education teachers in school districts. Provides that a school district may apply for a grant to fund 50% of the personal services cost for an agriculture education teacher; however, a school district that is creating a new agriculture education program may apply for a grant to fund 100% of an agriculture teacher's personal services cost in the first and second year of the new agriculture education program and 80% of an agriculture teacher's personal services cost in the third and fourth years of the new agriculture education program. Allows a school district to apply for a grant for more than one teacher. Sets forth the duties of the State Board. Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act with respect to teacher shortage scholarships. Specifies that agricultural education is a course of study included in the definition of "areas of identified staff shortages".

LRB099 20370 MLM 44849 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 School Code is amended by adding Section
5 2-3.80b as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.80b new)

7 Sec. 2-3.80b. Agriculture education teacher grant program.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "New agriculture education program" means an agriculture
10 education program approved by the State Board of Education in a
11 school district that has not had an agriculture education
12 program for a period of 10 years or more prior to the date of
13 application for a grant under this Section.

14 "Personal services cost" means the cost of a teacher
15 providing 60 additional days, which shall mean 400 additional
16 hours, outside the teacher's regularly scheduled teaching
17 duties for the benefit of agriculture education. The 400
18 additional hours shall be any activity that is to the benefit
19 of agriculture education, as defined by the State Board of
20 Education by rule, regardless of the time of year the activity
21 occurs.

22 (b) Subject to appropriation to the State Board of
23 Education, there is created an agriculture education teacher

1 grant program to fund personal services costs for agriculture
2 education teachers in school districts. The grants shall be for
3 the purpose of assisting school districts with paying for
4 personal services costs of agriculture education teachers.

5 (c) A school district may apply for a grant to fund 50% of
6 the personal services cost for an agriculture education teacher
7 under this Section. However, a school district that is creating
8 a new agriculture education program may apply for a grant to
9 fund 100% of an agriculture teacher's personal services cost in
10 the first and second year of the new agriculture education
11 program and 80% of an agriculture teacher's personal services
12 cost in the third and fourth years of the new agriculture
13 education program. A school district may apply for a grant for
14 more than one teacher under this Section.

15 (d) A school district that applies for a grant under this
16 Section or offers any extended contract for agriculture
17 education shall base its personal services costs on the
18 reasonably expected personal services cost for the teacher
19 based on the cost of the teacher's regularly scheduled teaching
20 duties.

21 (e) The State Board of Education shall create a statewide
22 system for an agriculture education teacher to track his or her
23 additional hours completed pursuant to a grant under this
24 Section.

25 (f) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules as
26 necessary to implement this Section.

1 Section 10. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
2 amended by changing Section 65.25 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 947/65.25)

4 Sec. 65.25. Teacher shortage scholarships.

5 (a) The Commission may annually award a number of
6 scholarships to persons preparing to teach in areas of
7 identified staff shortages. Such scholarships shall be issued
8 to individuals who make application to the Commission and who
9 agree to take courses at qualified institutions of higher
10 learning which will prepare them to teach in areas of
11 identified staff shortages.

12 (b) Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be issued
13 pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Commission;
14 provided that no rule or regulation promulgated by the State
15 Board of Education prior to the effective date of this
16 amendatory Act of 1993 pursuant to the exercise of any right,
17 power, duty, responsibility or matter of pending business
18 transferred from the State Board of Education to the Commission
19 under this Section shall be affected thereby, and all such
20 rules and regulations shall become the rules and regulations of
21 the Commission until modified or changed by the Commission in
22 accordance with law. The Commission shall allocate the
23 scholarships awarded between persons initially preparing to
24 teach, persons holding valid teaching certificates issued

1 under Articles 21 and 34 of the School Code, and persons
2 holding a bachelor's degree from any accredited college or
3 university who have been employed for a minimum of 10 years in
4 a field other than teaching.

5 (c) Each scholarship shall be utilized by its holder for
6 the payment of tuition and non-revenue bond fees at any
7 qualified institution of higher learning. Such tuition and fees
8 shall be available only for courses that will enable the
9 individual to be certified to teach in areas of identified
10 staff shortages. The Commission shall determine which courses
11 are eligible for tuition payments under this Section.

12 (d) The Commission may make tuition payments directly to
13 the qualified institution of higher learning which the
14 individual attends for the courses prescribed or may make
15 payments to the teacher. Any teacher who received payments and
16 who fails to enroll in the courses prescribed shall refund the
17 payments to the Commission.

18 (e) Following the completion of the program of study,
19 persons who held valid teaching certificates and persons
20 holding a bachelor's degree from any accredited college or
21 university who have been employed for a minimum of 10 years in
22 a field other than teaching prior to receiving a teacher
23 shortage scholarship must accept employment within 2 years in a
24 school in Illinois within 60 miles of the person's residence to
25 teach in an area of identified staff shortage for a period of
26 at least 3 years; provided, however that any such person

1 instead may elect to accept employment within such 2 year
2 period to teach in an area of identified staff shortage for a
3 period of at least 3 years in a school in Illinois which is
4 more than 60 miles from such person's residence. Persons
5 initially preparing to teach prior to receiving a teacher
6 shortage scholarship must accept employment within 2 years in a
7 school in Illinois to teach in an area of identified staff
8 shortage for a period of at least 3 years. Individuals who fail
9 to comply with this provision shall refund all of the
10 scholarships awarded to the Commission, whether payments were
11 made directly to the institutions of higher learning or to the
12 individuals, and this condition shall be agreed to in writing
13 by all scholarship recipients at the time the scholarship is
14 awarded. No individual shall be required to refund tuition
15 payments if his or her failure to obtain employment as a
16 teacher in a school is the result of financial conditions
17 within school districts. The rules and regulations promulgated
18 as provided in this Section shall contain provisions regarding
19 the waiving and deferral of such payments.

20 (f) The Commission, with the cooperation of the State Board
21 of Education, shall assist individuals who have participated in
22 the scholarship program established by this Section in finding
23 employment in areas of identified staff shortages.

24 (g) Beginning in September, 1994 and annually thereafter,
25 the Commission, using data annually supplied by the State Board
26 of Education under procedures developed by it to measure the

1 level of shortage of qualified bilingual personnel serving
2 students with disabilities, shall annually publish (i) the
3 level of shortage of qualified bilingual personnel serving
4 students with disabilities, and (ii) allocations of
5 scholarships for personnel preparation training programs in
6 the areas of bilingual special education teacher training and
7 bilingual school service personnel.

8 (h) Appropriations for the scholarships outlined in this
9 Section shall be made to the Commission from funds appropriated
10 by the General Assembly.

11 (i) This Section is substantially the same as Section 30-4c
12 of the School Code, which Section is repealed by this
13 amendatory Act of 1993, and shall be construed as a
14 continuation of the teacher shortage scholarship program
15 established under that prior law, and not as a new or different
16 teacher shortage scholarship program. The State Board of
17 Education shall transfer to the Commission, as the successor to
18 the State Board of Education for all purposes of administering
19 and implementing the provisions of this Section, all books,
20 accounts, records, papers, documents, contracts, agreements,
21 and pending business in any way relating to the teacher
22 shortage scholarship program continued under this Section; and
23 all scholarships at any time awarded under that program by, and
24 all applications for any such scholarships at any time made to,
25 the State Board of Education shall be unaffected by the
26 transfer to the Commission of all responsibility for the

1 administration and implementation of the teacher shortage
2 scholarship program continued under this Section. The State
3 Board of Education shall furnish to the Commission such other
4 information as the Commission may request to assist it in
5 administering this Section.

6 (j) For the purposes of this Section:

7 "Qualified institution of higher learning" means the
8 University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago
9 State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State
10 University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois
11 University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois
12 University, the public community colleges subject to the Public
13 Community College Act and any Illinois privately operated
14 college, community college or university offering degrees and
15 instructional programs above the high school level either in
16 residence or by correspondence. The Board of Higher Education
17 and the Commission, in consultation with the State Board of
18 Education, shall identify qualified institutions to supply the
19 demand for bilingual special education teachers and bilingual
20 school service personnel.

21 "Areas of identified staff shortages" means courses of
22 study, including, but not limited to, agricultural education,
23 in which the number of teachers is insufficient to meet student
24 or school district demand for such instruction as determined by
25 the State Board of Education.

26 (Source: P.A. 88-228; 89-4, eff. 1-1-96.)