

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 50 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/50)

7 Sec. 50. Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship
8 program.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "Eligible applicant" means a minority student who has
11 graduated from high school or has received a high school
12 equivalency certificate and has maintained a cumulative
13 grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and
14 who by reason thereof is entitled to apply for scholarships
15 to be awarded under this Section.

16 "Minority student" means a student who is any of the
17 following:

18 (1) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person
19 having origins in any of the original peoples of North
20 and South America, including Central America, and who
21 maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment).

22 (2) Asian (a person having origins in any of the
23 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or

1 the Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited
2 to, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,
3 Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and
4 Vietnam).

5 (3) Black or African American (a person having
6 origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa).
7 Terms such as "Haitian" or "Negro" can be used in
8 addition to "Black or African American".

9 (4) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban, Mexican,
10 Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other
11 Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race).

12 (5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a
13 person having origins in any of the original peoples of
14 Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).

15 "Qualified student" means a person (i) who is a
16 resident of this State and a citizen or permanent resident
17 of the United States; (ii) who is a minority student, as
18 defined in this Section; (iii) who, as an eligible
19 applicant, has made a timely application for a minority
20 teaching scholarship under this Section; (iv) who is
21 enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a qualified
22 Illinois institution of higher learning; (v) who is
23 enrolled in a course of study leading to teacher licensure
24 ~~certification~~, including alternative teacher licensure,
25 or, if the student is already licensed to teach, in a
26 course of study leading to an additional teaching

1 endorsement or a master's degree in an academic field in
2 which he or she is teaching or plans to teach
3 ~~certification~~; (vi) who maintains a grade point average of
4 no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and (vii) who continues to
5 advance satisfactorily toward the attainment of a degree.

6 (b) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois
7 minority students to pursue teaching careers at the preschool
8 or elementary or secondary school level, each qualified student
9 shall be awarded a minority teacher scholarship to any
10 qualified Illinois institution of higher learning. However,
11 preference may be given to qualified applicants enrolled at or
12 above the junior level.

13 (c) Each minority teacher scholarship awarded under this
14 Section shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and
15 fees and room and board costs of the qualified Illinois
16 institution of higher learning at which the recipient is
17 enrolled, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000; except that in the
18 case of a recipient who does not reside on-campus at the
19 institution at which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the
20 scholarship shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee expenses
21 and a commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000.

22 (d) The total amount of minority teacher scholarship
23 assistance awarded by the Commission under this Section to an
24 individual in any given fiscal year, when added to other
25 financial assistance awarded to that individual for that year,
26 shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the institution at

1 which the student is enrolled. If the amount of minority
2 teacher scholarship to be awarded to a qualified student as
3 provided in subsection (c) of this Section exceeds the cost of
4 attendance at the institution at which the student is enrolled,
5 the minority teacher scholarship shall be reduced by an amount
6 equal to the amount by which the combined financial assistance
7 available to the student exceeds the cost of attendance.

8 (e) The maximum number of academic terms for which a
9 qualified student can receive minority teacher scholarship
10 assistance shall be 8 semesters or 12 quarters.

11 (f) In any academic year for which an eligible applicant
12 under this Section accepts financial assistance through the
13 Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, as authorized by
14 Section 551 et seq. of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the
15 applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance
16 awarded under this Section.

17 (g) All applications for minority teacher scholarships to
18 be awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission
19 on forms which the Commission shall provide for eligible
20 applicants. The form of applications and the information
21 required to be set forth therein shall be determined by the
22 Commission, and the Commission shall require eligible
23 applicants to submit with their applications such supporting
24 documents or recommendations as the Commission deems
25 necessary.

26 (h) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,

1 payment of any minority teacher scholarship awarded under this
2 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship
3 funds distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be
4 paid to the institution and used only for payment of the
5 tuition and fee and room and board expenses incurred by the
6 student in connection with his or her attendance ~~as an~~
7 ~~undergraduate student~~ at a qualified Illinois institution of
8 higher learning. Any minority teacher scholarship awarded
9 under this Section shall be applicable to 2 semesters or 3
10 quarters of enrollment. If a qualified student withdraws from
11 enrollment prior to completion of the first semester or quarter
12 for which the minority teacher scholarship is applicable, the
13 school shall refund to the Commission the full amount of the
14 minority teacher scholarship.

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

19 (j) When an appropriation to the Commission for a given
20 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all
21 qualified students, the Commission shall allocate the
22 appropriation in accordance with this subsection. If funds are
23 insufficient to provide all qualified students with a
24 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission shall
25 allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal year
26 on the basis of the date the Commission receives a complete

1 application form.

2 (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j) or any
3 other provision of this Section, at least 30% of the funds
4 appropriated for scholarships awarded under this Section in
5 each fiscal year shall be reserved for qualified male minority
6 applicants. If the Commission does not receive enough
7 applications from qualified male minorities on or before
8 January 1 of each fiscal year to award 30% of the funds
9 appropriated for these scholarships to qualified male minority
10 applicants, then the Commission may award a portion of the
11 reserved funds to qualified female minority applicants.

12 (l) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
13 academic year, each recipient of a minority teacher scholarship
14 awarded under this Section shall be required by the Commission
15 to sign an agreement under which the recipient pledges that,
16 within the one-year period following the termination of the
17 program for which the recipient was awarded a minority teacher
18 scholarship, the recipient (i) shall begin teaching for a
19 period of not less than one year for each year of scholarship
20 assistance he or she was awarded under this Section; and (ii)
21 shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a nonprofit Illinois
22 public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary school, or
23 secondary school at which no less than 30% of the enrolled
24 students are minority students in the year during which the
25 recipient begins teaching at the school; and (iii) shall, upon
26 request by the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence

1 that he or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the
2 teaching agreement provided for in this subsection.

3 (m) If a recipient of a minority teacher scholarship
4 awarded under this Section fails to fulfill the teaching
5 obligation set forth in subsection (l) of this Section, the
6 Commission shall require the recipient to repay the amount of
7 the scholarships received, prorated according to the fraction
8 of the teaching obligation not completed, at a rate of interest
9 equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees.
10 The Commission is authorized to establish rules relating to its
11 collection activities for repayment of scholarships under this
12 Section. All repayments collected under this Section shall be
13 forwarded to the State Comptroller for deposit into the State's
14 General Revenue Fund.

15 (n) A recipient of minority teacher scholarship shall not
16 be considered in violation of the agreement entered into
17 pursuant to subsection (l) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a
18 full time basis as a graduate student in a course of study
19 related to the field of teaching at a qualified Illinois
20 institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not in excess
21 of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the United
22 States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total disability for
23 a period of time not to exceed 3 years as established by sworn
24 affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) is seeking and unable
25 to find full time employment as a teacher at an Illinois
26 public, private, or parochial preschool or elementary or

1 secondary school that satisfies the criteria set forth in
2 subsection (l) of this Section and is able to provide evidence
3 of that fact; (v) becomes a person with a permanent total
4 disability as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified
5 physician; (vi) is taking additional courses, on at least a
6 half-time basis, needed to obtain licensure ~~certification~~ as a
7 teacher in Illinois; or (vii) is fulfilling teaching
8 requirements associated with other programs administered by
9 the Commission and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this
10 Section in a period of time equal to the length of the teaching
11 obligation.

12 (o) Scholarship recipients under this Section who withdraw
13 from a program of teacher education but remain enrolled in
14 school to continue their postsecondary studies in another
15 academic discipline shall not be required to commence repayment
16 of their Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship so long as
17 they remain enrolled in school on a full-time basis or if they
18 can document for the Commission special circumstances that
19 warrant extension of repayment.

20 (Source: P.A. 98-718, eff. 1-1-15; 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
22 becoming law.