

1 AN ACT regarding higher education student assistance.

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  
5 is amended by changing Section 36 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/36)

7 Sec. 36. Illinois Incentive for Access grant program.

8 (a) The Commission each year shall determine eligibility  
9 for the Illinois Incentive for Access grant from applications  
10 received for Monetary Award Program grant assistance under  
11 Section 35 of this Act. An applicant shall be determined as  
12 eligible for an Illinois Incentive for Access grant under  
13 this Section when the Commission finds that the applicant:

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

16 (2) has limited no personal or family financial  
17 resources available for expenditure on educational  
18 expenses, as defined by current federal student financial  
19 aid methodology;

20 (3) has not already received a baccalaureate  
21 degree; and

22 (4) is enrolled at least one-half time as a  
23 freshman undergraduate student at an approved Illinois  
24 institution of higher learning participating in the  
25 Monetary Award Program administered by the Commission.

26 (b) Subject to a separate appropriation made for  
27 purposes of awarding grants under this Section, Illinois  
28 Incentive for Access grants shall be paid in multiple  
29 disbursements as determined by the Commission (i) in an  
30 amount not to exceed \$750 ~~\$500~~ per applicant per year for  
31 applicants with an expected family contribution of \$0, as

1 defined by current federal student aid methodology, and (ii)  
2 in an amount not to exceed \$375 for applicants with an  
3 expected family contribution of \$375 or less but more than  
4 \$0, as defined by current federal student aid methodology.  
5 In awarding grants, the Commission shall give priority to  
6 applicants with an expected family contribution of \$0. No  
7 recipient may receive a grant under this Section for more  
8 than 2 semesters or 3 quarters of award payments.

9 (c) Eligibility for grants awarded under this Section  
10 shall be determined solely on the basis of the financial  
11 resources of the applicant and the applicant's family. Cost  
12 of attendance at the institution in which the applicant is  
13 enrolled shall not affect eligibility for an award, except  
14 that State student financial assistance awarded under this  
15 Act, including the Illinois Incentive for Access award, may  
16 not exceed the institution's cost of attendance.

17 (d) The Commission shall notify applicants that grant  
18 assistance is contingent upon availability of appropriated  
19 funds.

20 (e) The Commission shall submit a written evaluation of  
21 the Illinois Incentive for Access program to the Governor,  
22 the General Assembly, and the Board of Higher Education on or  
23 before October 1, 1999, including a report of the progress  
24 made toward the goal of increasing the access and retention  
25 rates for Illinois Incentive for Access grant recipients.

26 (Source: P.A. 89-512, eff. 7-11-96.)

27 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July  
28 1, 2002.