



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB4007

by Rep. David McSweeney

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.95 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to establish and administer an adult vocational community college scholarship program. Provides that beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, the Commission shall, each year, receive and consider applications for scholarships to community colleges for people over the age of 30 who have been unemployed and are actively searching for employment and who can identify the specific training certificate, credential, or associate degree that he or she is seeking to obtain. Allows applicants to re-apply for the scholarship if they can demonstrate continual progress towards the desired certificate, credential, or degree. Provides that scholarships shall not exceed \$2,000 per recipient per academic year. Allows the Commission to establish appropriate applications and forms. Requires the Commission to adopt all necessary and proper rules to implement the program.

LRB100 11669 MLM 22559 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 65.95 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.95 new)

7 Sec. 65.95. Adult vocational community college
8 scholarship.

9 (a) The Commission shall, subject to appropriation,
10 establish and administer an adult vocational community college
11 scholarship program.

12 (b) Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, the
13 Commission shall, each year, receive and consider applications
14 for scholarships under this Section. An applicant is eligible
15 for a scholarship under this Section if the Commission finds
16 that the applicant meets all of the following qualifications:

17 (1) He or she is over the age of 30.

18 (2) He or she has been unemployed and is actively
19 searching for employment, including being enrolled on the
20 Department of Employment Security's job-search website for
21 at least 6 months prior to the date the application is
22 submitted by the applicant.

23 (3) He or she is enrolled or accepted for enrollment at

1 his or her local community college organized under the
2 Public Community College Act.

3 (4) He or she can identify the specific training
4 certificate, credential, or associate degree that he or she
5 is seeking to obtain; the career that the certificate,
6 credential, or degree will help create; and how long it
7 will take applicant to reach this goal.

8 Applicants may re-apply for the scholarship under this
9 Section if they can demonstrate continual progress, in terms of
10 grades and attendance, towards the desired certificate,
11 credential, or degree.

12 (c) The scholarship shall be sufficient to cover the cost
13 of tuition and fees to attend the community college, but in no
14 event shall the scholarship exceed \$2,000 per scholarship
15 recipient per academic year.

16 The total amount of a scholarship awarded by the Commission
17 under this Section to an individual in any given fiscal year,
18 when added to other financial assistance awarded to that
19 individual for that year, shall not exceed the cost of
20 attendance at the community college at which the student is
21 enrolled.

22 (d) All applications for scholarships to be awarded under
23 this Section shall be made to the Commission in a form as set
24 forth by the Commission. The form of application and the
25 information required to be set forth in the application shall
26 be determined by the Commission, and the Commission shall

1 require eligible applicants to submit with their applications
2 such supporting documents as the Commission deems necessary.

3 (e) Subject to a separate appropriation made for such
4 purposes, payment of any scholarships awarded under this
5 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship
6 funds distributed in accordance with this Section shall be paid
7 to the community college on behalf of the recipients.
8 Scholarship funds are applicable toward 2 semesters of
9 enrollment within an academic year. Up to 2% of the
10 appropriation for this scholarship program may be used by the
11 Commission for the costs of administering the scholarship
12 program.

13 (f) The Commission shall adopt all necessary and proper
14 rules not inconsistent with this Section for its effective
15 implementation.