

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 1. Legislative intent. It is the intent of the
5 General Assembly that nothing in this Act reduces or eliminates
6 the funding of Monetary Award Program grants by the Illinois
7 Student Assistance Commission for first-time applicants who
8 are not freshmen of an institution of higher learning.

9 Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
10 amended by changing Section 35 as follows:

11 (110 ILCS 947/35)

12 Sec. 35. Monetary award program.

13 (a) The Commission shall, each year, receive and consider
14 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Subject
15 to a separate appropriation for such purposes, an applicant is
16 eligible for a grant under this Section when the Commission
17 finds that the applicant:

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

20 (2) in the absence of grant assistance, will be
21 deterred by financial considerations from completing an
22 educational program at the qualified institution of his or

1 her choice.

2 (b) The Commission shall award renewals only upon the
3 student's application and upon the Commission's finding that
4 the applicant:

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

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

7 (3) is in a financial situation that continues to
8 warrant assistance.

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

13 (1) subject to appropriation, \$5,468 for fiscal year
14 2009, \$5,968 for fiscal year 2010, and \$6,468 for fiscal
15 year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, or such lesser
16 amount as the Commission finds to be available, during an
17 academic year;

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

21 (3) such amount as the Commission finds to be
22 appropriate in view of the applicant's financial
23 resources.

24 Subject to appropriation, the maximum grant amount for
25 students not subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection (c)
26 must be increased by the same percentage as any increase made

1 by law to the maximum grant amount under subdivision (1) of
2 this subsection (c).

3 "Tuition and other necessary fees" as used in this Section
4 include the customary charge for instruction and use of
5 facilities in general, and the additional fixed fees charged
6 for specified purposes, which are required generally of
7 nongrant recipients for each academic period for which the
8 grant applicant actually enrolls, but do not include fees
9 payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent
10 deposits which are refundable in whole or in part. The
11 Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with this
12 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of
13 tuition and other necessary fees.

14 (d) No applicant, including those presently receiving
15 scholarship assistance under this Act, is eligible for monetary
16 award program consideration under this Act after receiving a
17 baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit
18 hours of award payments.

19 (d-5) In this subsection (d-5), "renewing applicant" means
20 a student attending an institution of higher learning who
21 received a Monetary Award Program grant during the prior
22 academic year. Beginning with the processing of applications
23 for the 2020-2021 academic year, the Commission shall annually
24 publish a priority deadline date for renewing applicants.
25 Subject to appropriation, a renewing applicant who files by the
26 published priority deadline date shall receive a grant if he or

1 she continues to meet the eligibility requirements under this
2 Section. A renewing applicant's failure to apply by the
3 priority deadline date established under this subsection (d-5)
4 shall not disqualify him or her from receiving a grant if
5 sufficient funding is available to provide awards after that
6 date.

7 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to
8 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with
9 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The Commission
10 shall notify applicants that grant assistance is contingent
11 upon the availability of appropriated funds.

12 (e-5) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is an
13 important purpose of the Monetary Award Program to facilitate
14 access to college both for students who pursue postsecondary
15 education immediately following high school and for those who
16 pursue postsecondary education later in life, particularly
17 Illinoisans who are dislocated workers with financial need and
18 who are seeking to improve their economic position through
19 education. For the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years, the
20 Commission shall give additional and specific consideration to
21 the needs of dislocated workers with the intent of allowing
22 applicants who are dislocated workers an opportunity to secure
23 financial assistance even if applying later than the general
24 pool of applicants. The Commission's consideration shall
25 include, in determining the number of grants to be offered, an
26 estimate of the resources needed to serve dislocated workers

1 who apply after the Commission initially suspends award
2 announcements for the upcoming regular academic year, but prior
3 to the beginning of that academic year. For the purposes of
4 this subsection (e-5), a dislocated worker is defined as in the
5 federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

6 (f) The Commission may request appropriations for deposit
7 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund. Monies deposited
8 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund may be expended
9 exclusively for one purpose: to make Monetary Award Program
10 grants to eligible students. Amounts on deposit in the Monetary
11 Award Program Reserve Fund may not exceed 2% of the current
12 annual State appropriation for the Monetary Award Program.

13 The purpose of the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund is
14 to enable the Commission each year to assure as many students
15 as possible of their eligibility for a Monetary Award Program
16 grant and to do so before commencement of the academic year.
17 Moneys deposited in this Reserve Fund are intended to enhance
18 the Commission's management of the Monetary Award Program,
19 minimizing the necessity, magnitude, and frequency of
20 adjusting award amounts and ensuring that the annual Monetary
21 Award Program appropriation can be fully utilized.

22 (g) The Commission shall determine the eligibility of and
23 make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit
24 institutions in accordance with the criteria set forth in this
25 Section. The eligibility of applicants enrolled at such
26 for-profit institutions shall be limited as follows:

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

4 (2) Beginning with the academic year 1998, only to
5 eligible freshmen students, transfer students who have
6 attained an associate degree, and students who receive a
7 grant under paragraph (1) for the academic year 1997 and
8 whose grants are being renewed for the academic year 1998.

9 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all
10 eligible students.

11 (h) The Commission may adopt rules to implement this
12 Section.

13 (Source: P.A. 100-477, eff. 9-8-17.)

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.