



Sen. Dan Kotowski

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LRB099 03160 SXM 35095 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 223

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 223, AS AMENDED, by
3 replacing everything after the enacting clause with the
4 following:

5 "Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
6 amended by adding Section 62 as follows:

7 (110 ILCS 947/62 new)

8 Sec. 62. Grants for exonerated persons.

9 (a) In this Section:

10 "Exonerated person" means an individual who has received a
11 pardon from the Governor of the State of Illinois stating that
12 such a pardon is issued on the grounds of innocence of the
13 crime for which he or she was imprisoned or an individual who
14 has received a certificate of innocence from a circuit court
15 pursuant to Section 2-702 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

16 "Satisfactory academic progress" means the qualified

1 applicant's maintenance of minimum standards of academic
2 performance, consistent with requirements for maintaining
3 federal financial aid eligibility, as determined by the
4 institution of higher learning.

5 (b) Subject to a separate appropriation for this purpose,
6 the Commission shall, each year, receive and consider
7 applications for grant assistance under this Section.
8 Recipients of grants issued by the Commission in accordance
9 with this Section must be exonerated persons. Provided that the
10 recipient is maintaining satisfactory academic progress, the
11 funds from the grant may be used to pay up to 8 semesters or 12
12 quarters of full payment of tuition and mandatory fees at any
13 public university or public community college located in this
14 State for either full or part-time study. This benefit may be
15 used for undergraduate or graduate study.

16 In addition, an exonerated person who has not yet received
17 a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate
18 and completes a high school equivalency preparation course
19 through an Illinois Community College Board-approved provider
20 may use grant funds to pay costs associated with obtaining a
21 high school equivalency certificate, including payment of the
22 cost of the high school equivalency test and up to one retest
23 on each test module, and any additional fees that may be
24 required in order to obtain an Illinois High School Equivalency
25 Certificate or an official transcript of test scores after
26 successful completion of the high school equivalency test.

1 (c) An applicant for a grant under this Section need not
2 demonstrate financial need to qualify for the benefits.

3 (d) The Commission may adopt any rules necessary to
4 implement and administer this Section."