

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 10 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/10)

7 Sec. 10. Definitions. In this Act, and except to the  
8 extent that any of the following words or phrases is  
9 specifically qualified by its context:

10 "Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance  
11 Commission created by this Act.

12 "Enrollment" means the establishment and maintenance of an  
13 individual's status as a student in an institution of higher  
14 learning, regardless of the terms used at the institution to  
15 describe that status.

16 "Approved high school" means any public high school  
17 located in this State; and any high school, located in this  
18 State or elsewhere (whether designated as a high school,  
19 secondary school, academy, preparatory school, or otherwise)  
20 which in the judgment of the State Superintendent of Education  
21 provides a course of instruction at the secondary level and  
22 maintains standards of instruction substantially equivalent to  
23 those of the public high schools located in this State.

1 "Institution of higher learning", "qualified institution",  
2 or "institution" means an educational organization located in  
3 this State which

4 (1) provides at least an organized 2 year program of  
5 collegiate grade in the liberal arts or sciences, or both,  
6 directly applicable toward the attainment of a  
7 baccalaureate degree or a program in health education  
8 directly applicable toward the attainment of a  
9 certificate, diploma, or an associate degree;

10 (2) either is

11 (A) operated by this State, or

12 (B) operated publicly or privately, not for  
13 profit, or

14 (C) operated for profit, provided such for profit  
15 organization

16 (i) offers degree programs which have been  
17 approved by the Board of Higher Education for a  
18 minimum of 3 years under the Academic Degree Act,  
19 and

20 (ii) enrolls a majority of its students in  
21 such degree programs, and

22 (iii) maintains an accredited status with the  
23 Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of  
24 the North Central Association of Colleges and  
25 Schools;

26 (3) in the judgment of the Commission meets standards

1 substantially equivalent to those of comparable  
2 institutions operated by this State; and

3 (4) if so required by the Commission, uses the State  
4 as its primary guarantor of student loans made under the  
5 federal Higher Education Act of 1965.

6 For otherwise eligible educational organizations which provide  
7 academic programs for incarcerated students, the terms  
8 "institution of higher learning", "qualified institutions",  
9 and "institution" shall specifically exclude academic programs  
10 for incarcerated students except for students participating in  
11 the monetary award program established under Section 35 of  
12 this Act.

13 "Academic year" means a 12 month period of time, normally  
14 but not exclusively, from September 1 of any year through  
15 August 31 of the ensuing year.

16 "Full-time student" means any undergraduate student  
17 enrolled in 12 or more semester or quarter hours of credit  
18 courses in any given semester or quarter or in the equivalent  
19 number of units of registration as determined by the  
20 Commission.

21 "Part-time student" means any undergraduate student, other  
22 than a full-time student, enrolled in 6 or more semester or  
23 quarter hours of credit courses in any given semester or  
24 quarter or in the equivalent number of units of registration  
25 as determined by the Commission. Beginning with fiscal year  
26 1999, the Commission may, on a program by program basis,

1 expand this definition of "part-time student" to include  
2 students who enroll in less than 6 semester or quarter hours of  
3 credit courses in any given semester or quarter.

4 "Public university" means any public 4-year university in  
5 this State.

6 "Public university campus" means any campus under the  
7 governance or supervision of a public university.

8 (Source: P.A. 100-587, eff. 6-4-18; 100-1015, eff. 8-21-18.)

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
10 2026.