



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2806

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Tony M. McCombie

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 105/5.1030 new  
110 ILCS 947/65.122 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall establish, implement, and administer a STEM Opportunity Scholarship Program, using funds appropriated from the STEM Opportunity Scholarship Program Fund, for the purpose of offering scholarships to young women pursuing degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at public universities in this State. Sets forth provisions concerning eligibility, preference and priority, the assistance awarded, funding, and rulemaking. Creates the STEM Opportunity Scholarship Program Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Makes a corresponding change in the State Finance Act.

LRB104 08165 LNS 18213 b

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 State Finance Act is amended by adding  
5 Section 5.1030 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.1030 new)

7 Sec. 5.1030. The STEM Opportunity Scholarship Program  
8 Fund.

9 Section 10. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
10 amended by adding Section 65.122 as follows:

11 (110 ILCS 947/65.122 new)

12 Sec. 65.122. STEM Opportunity Scholarship Program.

13 (a) The Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall  
14 establish, implement, and administer a STEM Opportunity  
15 Scholarship Program, using funds appropriated from the STEM  
16 Opportunity Scholarship Program Fund, for the purpose of  
17 offering scholarships to young women pursuing degrees in the  
18 fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at  
19 public universities in this State.

20 (b) The Commission shall, on an annual basis, receive and  
21 consider applications for scholarship assistance under the

1 Program. An applicant is eligible for a scholarship under the  
2 Program if the Commission finds that the applicant meets all  
3 of the following criteria:

4 (1) The applicant is a woman and a resident of this  
5 State.

6 (2) The applicant is enrolled in a public university  
7 in this State on at least a part-time basis.

8 (c) When selecting scholarship recipients from amounts  
9 available for eligible applicants, the Commission shall give  
10 first preference to previous recipients of a scholarship under  
11 the Program, as long as the recipient continues to meet the  
12 eligibility requirements set forth in subsection (b) and  
13 maintains satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the  
14 public university at which the recipient is enrolled. In  
15 considering new recipients, the Commission shall prioritize  
16 funding for students with financial need, as determined by the  
17 Commission.

18 (d) The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded by  
19 the Commission under this Section to an eligible applicant in  
20 any given fiscal year, when added to other financial  
21 assistance awarded to that individual for that year, may not  
22 exceed the cost of attendance at the public university at  
23 which the individual is enrolled. If the amount of financial  
24 assistance to be awarded to a qualified student exceeds the  
25 cost of attendance at the public university at which the  
26 student is enrolled, the scholarship awarded under this

1 Section shall be reduced by an amount equal to the amount by  
2 which the combined financial assistance available to the  
3 student exceeds the cost of attendance.

4 (e) The STEM Opportunity Scholarship Program Fund is  
5 created as a special fund in the State treasury. All money in  
6 the Fund shall be used, subject to appropriation, by the  
7 Commission for the purposes of this Section.

8 (f) Funding for the Program is subject to appropriation.  
9 Additional contributions from private entities, philanthropic  
10 organizations, or federal grants may supplement the Program.

11 (g) The Commission shall make all necessary and proper  
12 rules not inconsistent with this Section for its effective  
13 implementation, with the guidance and assistance of public  
14 universities in this State.