



Rep. Michael Crawford

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10400HB3551ham001

LRB104 11479 LNS 24323 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 3551

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 3551 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
5 amended by adding Section 65.135 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.135 new)

7 Sec. 65.135. Adult Learner Flexible Education Grant  
8 Program.

9 (a) In this Section:

10 "Qualified institution" means either a qualified  
11 institution, as defined in Section 10 of this Act, or a  
12 not-for-profit postsecondary institution that is accredited by  
13 a regional accrediting organization recognized by the Board of  
14 Higher Education or the United States Department of Education  
15 and that meets all of the following criteria:

16 (1) The institution was originally chartered and is

1 currently operating as a not-for-profit entity.

2 (2) The institution's 3-year federal student loan  
3 cohort default rate, as published by the United States  
4 Department of Education, does not exceed 10%.

5 (3) The institution's average annual cost of full-time  
6 tuition and mandatory fees over the preceding 4 academic  
7 years is less than the average annual cost of full-time  
8 tuition and mandatory fees at public universities in this  
9 State over the preceding 4 academic years, based on data  
10 published by the United States Department of Education.

11 (4) The institution participates in the federal Pell  
12 Grant program and in at least 2 of the following federal  
13 student aid programs:

14 (A) The Federal Work-Study Program.

15 (B) The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan  
16 Program.

17 (C) The Federal Supplemental Educational  
18 Opportunity Grant Program.

19 "Qualified program" means a bachelor's degree or  
20 certificate program that requires at least 60% of instruction  
21 and coursework to be delivered and completed online.

22 "Tuition and mandatory fees" means the customary charge  
23 for instruction and the additional fixed fees charged for  
24 specified purposes that are required generally of nongrant  
25 students for each academic period for which a grant recipient  
26 enrolls. The Commission may adopt rules concerning the

1 computation of tuition and mandatory fees for the purposes of  
2 this definition.

3 (b) The Commission shall establish the Adult Learner  
4 Flexible Education Grant Program to facilitate access to  
5 online postsecondary education for adults over the age of 25.

6 (c) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, subject to  
7 appropriation, the Commission shall receive and consider  
8 applications for grant assistance under this Section. An  
9 applicant is eligible for a grant under this Section if the  
10 Commission finds that the applicant meets all of the following  
11 qualifications:

12 (1) The applicant is over the age of 25.

13 (2) The applicant is accepted for enrollment at a  
14 qualified institution to pursue a qualified program.

15 (3) The applicant is a resident of this State and a  
16 permanent resident of the United States.

17 (4) The applicant has completed the Free Application  
18 for Federal Student Aid.

19 (5) The applicant, in the absence of grant assistance,  
20 will be deterred by financial considerations from  
21 completing an educational program at the qualified  
22 institution of the applicant's choice.

23 (6) The applicant has not already received a  
24 baccalaureate degree.

25 (d) All grants under this Section are applicable only to  
26 tuition and mandatory fees. The Commission shall determine the

1 grant amount for each student, which amount must not exceed  
2 \$5,000. The total amount of a grant awarded by the Commission  
3 under this Section to an individual in any given fiscal year,  
4 when added to other financial assistance awarded to that  
5 individual for that fiscal year, may not exceed the cost of  
6 attendance at the qualified institution at which the  
7 individual is enrolled.

8 (e) All applications for grants to be awarded under this  
9 Section shall be made to the Commission in the form and manner  
10 as prescribed by the Commission. The information required to  
11 be set forth in the application shall be determined by the  
12 Commission. The Commission shall require eligible applicants  
13 to submit with their applications such supporting documents,  
14 including financial documents, as the Commission deems  
15 necessary.

16 (f) All grant funds distributed in accordance with this  
17 Section shall be paid to the qualified institution on behalf  
18 of the recipient. Grants are applicable toward 2 semesters or  
19 equivalent academic terms of enrollment within an academic  
20 year. Up to 3% of the appropriation for this program may be  
21 used by the Commission for the costs of administering the  
22 program. The Commission may establish a methodology for the  
23 distribution of grants, prioritizing students as follows:

24 (1) Students who are ineligible for others forms of  
25 State-based financial aid.

26 (2) Students who demonstrate the most financial need

1       based on the FAFSA Student Aid Index or any other  
2       methodology used by FAFSA to determine and prioritize  
3       student need.

4       (3) First-generation students.

5       (4) Students who meet any other criteria the  
6       Commission deems necessary.

7       (g) The Commission shall adopt rules for the effective  
8       implementation of this Section.

9       Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
10      2025.".