



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4183

Introduced 10/28/2025, by Rep. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Act. Makes changes concerning definitions; the Program Board; program policy; grant eligibility; institution and institutional representative responsibilities; applying for, determining, and administering awards; award conditions; penalties; the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act; and applicability. Repeals a Section concerning continuing participants. Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Makes changes concerning the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship program, the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program, Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License scholarships, the School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program, and the iGROW Tech Scholarship Program. Repeals a Section concerning equal opportunity scholarships. Amends the Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program Act to remove a provision with respect to reserving a portion of funds for awards to certain minority applicants. Amends the Transitions in Education Act to make a conforming change. Effective immediately.

LRB104 16005 LNS 29256 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 Transitions in Education Act is amended by
5 changing Section 130-5 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 180/130-5)

7 Sec. 130-5. Findings; policies.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds the following:

9 (1) Teachers are the single most important in-school
10 factor in supporting student outcomes and success; yet,
11 Illinois is suffering from a profound teacher shortage
12 across the State.

13 (2) To reverse this shortage, Illinois needs to
14 develop and invest in a robust and diverse educator
15 pipeline, addressing any barriers or gaps that limit high
16 quality candidates, particularly candidates of color, from
17 becoming teachers.

18 (3) Illinois loses many high quality, diverse educator
19 candidates in postsecondary programs due to confusion or
20 lack of course transfer credits and course articulation
21 from Illinois's 2-year to 4-year institutions.

22 (4) Lack of alignment and transferability of course
23 credits may often force candidates to spend additional

1 time and money to earn a degree or lead to an inability to
2 complete a degree.

3 (5) In 1993, the Board of Higher Education, the
4 Illinois Community College Board, and the Transfer
5 Coordinators of Illinois Colleges and Universities brought
6 together faculty from public and independent, associate,
7 and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions across the
8 State to develop the Illinois Articulation Initiative
9 (IAI).

10 (6) The goal of IAI is to facilitate the transfer of
11 courses from one participating college or university to
12 another in order to complete a baccalaureate degree.

13 (7) The Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR)
14 Act, as mandated by subsection (b) of Section 25 of the
15 Act, is designed to facilitate transfer among Illinois
16 public institutions, particularly for students with a
17 completed Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science
18 degree.

19 (8) While Illinois is a leading state for college
20 completion rates for adult learners and transfer students
21 from community colleges, it needs to increase the number
22 of high-quality postsecondary teaching credentials to meet
23 the demands of our schools and education workforce.

24 (9) With the rising costs of higher education for
25 Illinois students and families, the State needs to ensure
26 to the maximize extent possible that community college

1 courses will transfer with full credit for the student and
2 be accepted at an Illinois public or private institution
3 as they pursue a baccalaureate degree in education.

4 (10) Illinois can do this by improving transitions all
5 along the education pipeline; for postsecondary education,
6 this means strengthening articulation through stable
7 funding and the expansion of transfer tools, such as
8 Transferology and the IAI through development of an
9 objective measure of transfer and acceptance of credits in
10 education degrees.

11 (11) The IAI Education Pathway can be modeled off of
12 existing IAI major pathways like Early Childhood Education
13 and Criminal Justice.

14 (b) The General Assembly encourages the Board of Higher
15 Education, the State Board of Education, and the Illinois
16 Community College Board, as part of the IAI, to do the
17 following:

18 (1) The Board of Higher Education, the State Board of
19 Education, and the Illinois Community College Board are
20 encouraged to jointly establish a task force for a Major
21 Panel in Education and identify respective recommended
22 major courses that would be accepted as credit toward the
23 education major at the receiving institutions.

24 (2) As part of the report on the status of the Illinois
25 Articulation Initiative pursuant to Section 25 of the
26 Illinois Articulation Initiative Act, the Board of Higher

1 Education and the Illinois Community College Board are
2 encouraged to include in the annual report to the General
3 Assembly, the Governor, and the Illinois P-20 Council the
4 progress made on the task force on the Education Major
5 Panel.

6 (3) The Board of Higher Education, the State Board of
7 Education, and the Illinois Community College Board are
8 encouraged to further promote and encourage the enrollment
9 of minority students into educator preparation programs,
10 ~~such as the annual information session about the Minority~~
11 ~~Teachers of Illinois scholarship program pursuant to~~
12 ~~subsection (q) of Section 50 of the Higher Education~~
13 ~~Student Assistance Act.~~

14 (Source: P.A. 101-654, eff. 3-8-21.)

15 Section 10. The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in
16 Illinois Act is amended by changing Sections 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8,
17 10, and 11 and by adding Sections 7.5, 8.5, 11.10, and 11.15 as
18 follows:

19 (110 ILCS 930/2) (from Ch. 144, par. 2302)

20 Sec. 2. Definitions. As used in this Act, unless the
21 context otherwise requires:

22 "Academic year" means the period of time beginning with
23 the fall term in one calendar year and running through the end
24 of the summer term in the following calendar year.

1 "Board" means the Board of Higher Education.

2 "DFI" means the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in
3 Illinois Program of financial assistance ~~to minorities who are~~
4 ~~traditionally underrepresented as participants in~~
5 ~~postsecondary education~~. The program shall assist successful
6 applicants ~~them~~ in pursuing a graduate or professional degree
7 and shall also assist program graduates to find employment at
8 an Illinois institution of higher education, including a
9 community college, in a faculty or staff position.

10 "Illinois resident" means any United States citizen or
11 lawful permanent resident of the United States who meets at
12 least one of the following requirements:

13 (1) has earned a degree from an institution of higher
14 education authorized to operate in this State; or

15 (2) is a registered voter in this State and has lived
16 in this State for a period of at least 3 years prior to
17 applying for a grant under this Act.

18 The status of Illinois residency of a student at the time
19 of initial matriculation in the DFI shall hold for his or her
20 entire time in his or her graduate or professional study at the
21 DFI institution.

22 "Institutional representative" means the designated
23 individual who is responsible for coordinating DFI activities
24 at each qualified institution of higher education.

25 "Program Board" means the entity created to administer the
26 grant program authorized by this Act.

1 "Qualified institution of higher education" means a
2 qualifying publicly ~~or privately~~ operated educational
3 institution located within Illinois (i) that offers
4 instruction leading toward or prerequisite to an academic or
5 professional degree beyond the baccalaureate degree, excluding
6 theological schools, ~~and~~ (ii) that is authorized to operate in
7 the State of Illinois, and (iii) in which at least 45% of
8 students receive federal Pell Grants, which shall be based on
9 the 3-year average proportion of federal Pell Grant recipients
10 at Illinois public universities using the most recent data
11 available to the Board.

12 ~~"Racial minority" means a person who is a citizen of the~~
13 ~~United States or a lawful permanent resident of the United~~
14 ~~States and who is any of the following:~~

15 ~~(1) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person having~~
16 ~~origins in any of the original peoples of North and South~~
17 ~~America, including Central America, and who maintains~~
18 ~~tribal affiliation or community attachment).~~

19 ~~(2) Asian (a person having origins in any of the~~
20 ~~original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the~~
21 ~~Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited to,~~
22 ~~Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan,~~
23 ~~the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam).~~

24 ~~(3) Black or African American (a person having origins~~
25 ~~in any of the black racial groups of Africa).~~

26 ~~(4) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban, Mexican,~~

1 ~~Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish~~
2 ~~culture or origin, regardless of race).~~

3 ~~(5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a~~
4 ~~person having origins in any of the original peoples of~~
5 ~~Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).~~

6 (Source: P.A. 102-465, eff. 1-1-22; 102-1030, eff. 5-27-22.)

7 (110 ILCS 930/3) (from Ch. 144, par. 2303)

8 Sec. 3. Composition of the Program Board. The Program
9 Board shall be comprised of 11 members and shall be appointed
10 by the Board of Higher Education. The Board shall name the
11 chair person of the Program Board. The Program Board shall
12 name the vice chair person of the Program Board and make any
13 necessary subcommittee appointments. Persons appointed to the
14 Program Board shall include, but need not be limited to,
15 individuals who are in leadership positions in public
16 institutions of higher education, including community
17 colleges. Program Board members shall serve 2-year terms and
18 shall continue to serve until a replacement or reappointment
19 is determined. There are no term limits for members of the
20 Program Board. Illinois institutions that grant doctoral
21 degrees must have representation on the Program Board.

22 ~~The Board shall assure that racial minorities who are~~
23 ~~traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education~~
24 ~~programs and activities are members of the Program Board.~~

25 (Source: P.A. 101-354, eff. 8-9-19.)

1 (110 ILCS 930/4) (from Ch. 144, par. 2304)

2 Sec. 4. Responsibilities of the Program Board. The Program
3 Board shall be responsible for:

4 (a) Establishing policy for administration of the DFI
5 grant program authorized under this Act, including program
6 guidelines for the operation of the DFI and criteria to
7 promote placement of grant recipients.

8 (b) Creating the application materials, setting
9 application deadlines, reviewing applications, ~~Reviewing~~
10 and approving applications for participation in the DFI
11 grant program.

12 (c) Establishing subcommittees or panels as necessary
13 to review applications and promote student placement.

14 (d) Reporting annually to the Board on program
15 outcomes and results, including lists of new and
16 continuing scholarship award recipients by institution,
17 level, and field of study; lists of recipients retained in
18 the program from the previous year; lists of placements of
19 most recent program graduates; a description of
20 institutional efforts to place program graduates; and a
21 description of policy and administrative actions designed
22 to increase placement of grant recipients.

23 (e) Disseminating information regarding the DFI to
24 qualified institutions of higher education for
25 distribution.

1 (f) Prioritizing fields of study for awarding DFI
2 funds annually.

3 (g) Meeting at least 3 times per year.

4 (Source: P.A. 93-862, eff. 8-4-04.)

5 (110 ILCS 930/6) (from Ch. 144, par. 2306)

6 Sec. 6. DFI grants. A program of financial assistance is
7 established to implement the policy of encouraging ~~minority~~
8 students to enroll and complete academic programs at the
9 postbaccalaureate level and to enhance the diversity of
10 faculty and staff of Illinois institutions of higher
11 education. The Board of Higher Education shall provide
12 administrative assistance for the Program Board and shall
13 distribute funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this
14 purpose in accordance with decisions made by the Program
15 Board.

16 (Source: P.A. 93-862, eff. 8-4-04.)

17 (110 ILCS 930/7) (from Ch. 144, par. 2307)

18 Sec. 7. Eligibility for DFI grants. Institutions of higher
19 education shall verify that student applicants meet the
20 eligibility requirements for DFI grants. An individual is
21 eligible for an award under the provisions of this Act ~~if when~~
22 the Program Board finds:

23 (a) that ~~That~~ the individual is an Illinois ~~a~~ resident
24 ~~of this State~~ and a citizen or lawful permanent resident

1 of the United States;

2 (b) (blank); ~~That the individual is a member of a~~
3 ~~racial minority as defined under the terms of this Act;~~

4 (c) that ~~That~~ the individual ~~has earned any~~
5 ~~educational diploma at an institution of education located~~
6 ~~in this State, or is an Illinois a resident of the State~~
7 for no less than 3 ~~three~~ years prior to applying for the
8 grant, and the individual holds ~~must hold~~ a baccalaureate
9 degree from an institution of higher education authorized
10 to operate in this State ~~learning~~;

11 (d) that ~~That~~ the individual's financial resources are
12 such that, in the absence of a DFI grant, the individual
13 will be prevented from pursuing a graduate or professional
14 degree at a qualified institution of higher education of
15 his or her choice;

16 (e) that ~~That~~ the individual has above average
17 academic ability to pursue a graduate or professional
18 degree, as evidenced by the following:

19 (1) a minimum grade point average of a C+ (2.75 on
20 a grade scale of 4.00 = A) in the last 60 hours of
21 undergraduate work; and

22 (2) admission to a post-baccalaureate degree
23 program at a qualified institution of higher
24 education; and

25 (f) that ~~That~~ the individual meets other
26 qualifications, which shall be established by the Program

1 Board;:-

2 (g) that the individual was a federal Pell Grant
3 recipient at any point while earning a baccalaureate
4 degree;

5 (h) that the individual is admitted as a full-time
6 student, as defined by the institution of higher
7 education, for at least 9 months of the year pursuing a
8 doctoral, master's, or post-baccalaureate professional
9 degree program at a qualified institution of higher
10 education;

11 (i) that the individual has signed an agreement to
12 meet this Act's employment conditions if a DFI award is
13 accepted; and

14 (j) in order to maintain eligibility in the DFI and in
15 order to be considered for subsequent DFI grants, that the
16 individual meets the scholastic requirements and
17 eligibility for financial assistance required by the
18 institution of higher education in which he or she is
19 enrolled as a DFI participant.

20 ~~Grant funds shall be awarded only to those persons~~
21 ~~pursuing a graduate or professional degree program at a~~
22 ~~qualified institution of higher education.~~

23 ~~The Board shall by rule promulgate, pursuant to the~~
24 ~~Illinois Administrative Procedure Act, precise standards to be~~
25 ~~used by the Program Board to determine whether a program~~
26 ~~applicant has above average academic ability to pursue a~~

1 ~~graduate or professional degree.~~

2 (Source: P.A. 102-1030, eff. 5-27-22.)

3 (110 ILCS 930/7.5 new)

4 Sec. 7.5. Institution and institutional representative
5 responsibilities.

6 (a) A DFI institution shall:

7 (1) be a qualified institution of higher education;

8 (2) commit to providing leadership, information, and
9 placement opportunities for DFI fellows;

10 (3) designate an institutional representative; and

11 (4) recover funds provided to a student who does not
12 meet the conditions of an award under Section 10 of this
13 Act and return the funds to the Board.

14 (b) A DFI representative shall:

15 (1) actively recruit students who will be eligible for
16 DFI awards and verify to the Program Board that applicants
17 for DFI financial assistance meet all eligibility
18 requirements;

19 (2) maintain records for award recipients, including
20 DFI application materials, contracts, and records of award
21 payments;

22 (3) provide award recipients with academic and support
23 services, such as mentoring, counseling, and other
24 activities that would enhance the chances for degree
25 completion and success in achieving the goals of the DFI;

1 (4) supervise the payment of awards from funds awarded
2 by the Program Board;

3 (5) collect, process, and forward to the Program
4 Board, by the announced deadline each spring, all new
5 applications and renewal forms from eligible students; and

6 (6) assist award recipients who complete their program
7 of study in seeking a full-time teaching or administrative
8 position at an Illinois institution of higher education or
9 a full-time position as an employee of this State in an
10 educational-related capacity; such positions may include,
11 without limitation, administrative positions in State
12 elementary, secondary, or higher education agencies.

13 (110 ILCS 930/8) (from Ch. 144, par. 2308)

14 Sec. 8. Application. The Program Board shall design the
15 application for the DFI award and determine the timetable for
16 submission of the application. A student shall apply directly
17 to the qualified institution of higher education that he or
18 she plans to attend. All new applications and renewal forms
19 shall be submitted by the institution of higher education on
20 behalf of the student to the Program Board, with the
21 institution's verification and endorsement.

22 (Source: P.A. 93-862, eff. 8-4-04.)

23 (110 ILCS 930/8.5 new)

24 Sec. 8.5. Determining and administering awards. In

1 determining the recipients of awards, the Program Board shall
2 favor recipients who received awards in previous years and who
3 maintain conditions of eligibility as set forth in Section 7
4 and have made satisfactory academic progress toward a degree,
5 as determined by each institution of higher education, as long
6 as no student receives assistance for more than 4 years. In
7 administering awards, the Program Board shall:

8 (1) determine the award amount annually;

9 (2) direct the Board to deliver the awards to the
10 institution of higher education to disburse to the
11 recipients, conditioned upon the recipients' satisfactory
12 academic progress; and

13 (3) attempt to achieve distribution of the awards
14 among qualified institutions of higher education so that
15 the awards are distributed equitably within fields of
16 study.

17 A recipient who received an award in a previous year may
18 not be disqualified from receiving a subsequent award if the
19 applicant's qualified institution of higher education no
20 longer meets the Pell Grant criteria described in Section 2,
21 as long as the applicant and the qualified institution of
22 higher education maintain all other conditions of eligibility.

23 Grant funds shall be distributed by an institution of
24 higher education to grantees during the period of DFI
25 enrollment, not to exceed 12 months per award.

1 (110 ILCS 930/10) (from Ch. 144, par. 2310)

2 Sec. 10. Conditions of award.

3 (a) As used in this Section, "good faith effort" includes
4 actively seeking employment and maintaining contact with the
5 institutional representative and Program Board.

6 (b) Conditions for acceptance of a DFI award are that the
7 recipient shall agree to do the following:

8 (1) accept a teaching or nonteaching full-time
9 appointment at an Illinois institution of higher
10 education; ~~or~~

11 (2) accept a position as an employee of this State in
12 an administrative, educational-related position, as
13 determined by the Program Board, for the period equal to
14 the number of years that he or she was a participant in the
15 DFI; such positions shall include, without limitation,
16 administrative positions in State elementary, secondary,
17 or higher education agencies; or-

18 (3) make a good faith effort to secure such a position
19 for a time period of no less than 5 years.

20 (Source: P.A. 93-862, eff. 8-4-04.)

21 (110 ILCS 930/11) (from Ch. 144, par. 2311)

22 Sec. 11. Penalty for failure to fulfill the conditions of
23 a DFI award. If the obligation of the award is not met,
24 repayment of the funds awarded shall ~~may~~ be required according
25 to procedures developed by the ~~Program~~ Board. However, a

1 recipient of an award may not be penalized if the failure to
2 fulfill the conditions of the award is because the recipient
3 is no longer eligible due to changes made by this amendatory
4 Act of the 104th General Assembly.

5 (Source: P.A. 93-862, eff. 8-4-04.)

6 (110 ILCS 930/11.10 new)

7 Sec. 11.10. Relation to Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act.
8 All grants under this Act are subject to the Illinois Grant
9 Funds Recovery Act.

10 (110 ILCS 930/11.15 new)

11 Sec. 11.15. Applicability. The changes made to this Act by
12 this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly shall first
13 apply beginning with awards made for the 2025-2026 academic
14 year.

15 (110 ILCS 930/11.5 rep.)

16 Section 15. The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in
17 Illinois Act is amended by repealing Section 11.5.

18 Section 20. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
19 amended by changing Sections 50, 52, 65.110, 65.115, and
20 65.120 as follows:

21 (110 ILCS 947/50)

1 Sec. 50. ~~Minority~~ Teachers of Illinois scholarship
2 program.

3 (a) As used in this Section:

4 ~~"Eligible applicant" means a minority student who has~~
5 ~~graduated from high school or has received a State of~~
6 ~~Illinois High School Diploma and has maintained a~~
7 ~~cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0~~
8 ~~scale, and who by reason thereof is entitled to apply for~~
9 ~~scholarships to be awarded under this Section.~~

10 ~~"Minority student" means a student who is any of the~~
11 ~~following:~~

12 ~~(1) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person~~
13 ~~having origins in any of the original peoples of North~~
14 ~~and South America, including Central America, and who~~
15 ~~maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment).~~

16 ~~(2) Asian (a person having origins in any of the~~
17 ~~original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or~~
18 ~~the Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited~~
19 ~~to, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,~~
20 ~~Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and~~
21 ~~Vietnam).~~

22 ~~(3) Black or African American (a person having~~
23 ~~origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa).~~

24 ~~(4) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban,~~
25 ~~Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or~~
26 ~~other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race).~~

1 ~~(5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a~~
2 ~~person having origins in any of the original peoples~~
3 ~~of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).~~

4 "Qualified bilingual ~~minority~~ applicant" means a
5 qualified student who demonstrates proficiency in a
6 language other than English by (i) receiving a State Seal
7 of Biliteracy from the State Board of Education or (ii)
8 receiving a passing score on an educator licensure target
9 language proficiency test.

10 "Qualified student" means a student who: ~~person~~

11 (i) was enrolled in a public school district in
12 this State, at any point in kindergarten through grade
13 12, that had an average of least 70% of students who
14 were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch during
15 the most recent 3 school years for which data is
16 available from the State Board of Education;

17 (ii) was either:

18 (A) enrolled in a public school district in
19 this State, at any point in kindergarten through
20 grade 12, that had a 3-year average teacher
21 vacancy rate at or above the 3-year statewide
22 average teacher vacancy rate, excluding public
23 school districts that had zero vacancies, in any
24 school year among the most recent 3 school years
25 for which data is available from the State Board
26 of Education; or

1 (B) enrolled in a public school district in
2 this State, at any point in kindergarten through
3 grade 12, in which the number of teacher vacancies
4 in the district was at or above the statewide
5 average number of teacher vacancies, excluding
6 public school districts that had zero vacancies,
7 in any school year among the most recent 3 school
8 years for which data is available from the State
9 Board of Education;

10 (iii) has graduated from high school or has
11 received a State of Illinois High School Diploma;

12 (iv) who is an Illinois ~~a resident of this State~~
13 and a citizen or permanent resident of the United
14 States; ~~(ii) who is a minority student, as defined in~~
15 ~~this Section; (iii) who, as an eligible applicant,~~

16 (v) has made a timely application for a teacher
17 ~~minority teaching~~ scholarship under this Section;

18 (vi) ~~(iv) who~~ is enrolled on at least a half-time
19 basis at a qualified Illinois institution of higher
20 learning;

21 (vii) ~~(v) who~~ is enrolled in a course of study
22 leading to teacher licensure, including alternative
23 teacher licensure, to be a preschool, elementary, or
24 secondary school teacher, or, if the student is
25 already licensed to teach, in a course of study
26 leading to an additional teaching endorsement or a

1 master's degree in an academic field in which he or she
2 is teaching or plans to teach or who has received one
3 or more College and Career Pathway Endorsements
4 pursuant to Section 80 of the Postsecondary and
5 Workforce Readiness Act and commits to enrolling in a
6 course of study leading to teacher licensure,
7 including alternative teacher licensure, to be a
8 preschool, elementary, or secondary school teacher;

9 (viii) (vi) who maintains a grade point average of
10 no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and

11 (ix) (vii) who continues to advance satisfactorily
12 toward the attainment of a degree.

13 (b) The Commission shall determine, at its discretion, how
14 to verify whether an applicant is a qualified student. The
15 Commission shall award teacher scholarships under this Section
16 to qualified students who demonstrate to the Commission that
17 they satisfy the requirements and purpose of this Section. All
18 qualified students may apply. A student who received a
19 scholarship under this Section in a previous academic year may
20 not be disqualified from receiving a subsequent award if the
21 public school district where the student had been enrolled no
22 longer meets the criteria regarding free or reduced-price
23 lunch or teacher vacancies described in this Section, as long
24 as the student maintains all other conditions of eligibility.
25 ~~In order to encourage academically talented Illinois minority~~
26 ~~students to pursue teaching careers at the preschool or~~

1 ~~elementary or secondary school level and to address and~~
2 ~~alleviate the teacher shortage crisis in this State described~~
3 ~~under the provisions of the Transitions in Education Act, each~~
4 ~~qualified student shall be awarded a minority teacher~~
5 ~~scholarship to any qualified Illinois institution of higher~~
6 ~~learning. However, preference may be given to qualified~~
7 ~~applicants enrolled at or above the junior level.~~

8 (c) The annual teacher scholarship amount shall be
9 computed by the institution. Each ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship
10 awarded under this Section shall be in an amount sufficient to
11 pay the total cost of attendance ~~tuition and fees and room and~~
12 ~~board costs~~ of the qualified Illinois institution of higher
13 learning at which the recipient is enrolled, ~~up to an annual~~
14 ~~maximum of \$5,000; except that in the case of a recipient who~~
15 ~~does not reside on campus at the institution at which he or she~~
16 ~~is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship shall be sufficient~~
17 ~~to pay tuition and fee expenses and a commuter allowance, up to~~
18 ~~an annual maximum of \$5,000. However, if at least \$2,850,000~~
19 ~~is appropriated in a given fiscal year for the Minority~~
20 ~~Teachers of Illinois scholarship program, then, in each fiscal~~
21 ~~year thereafter, each scholarship awarded under this Section~~
22 ~~shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees~~
23 ~~and room and board costs of the qualified Illinois institution~~
24 ~~of higher learning at which the recipient is enrolled, up to an~~
25 ~~annual maximum of \$7,500; except that in the case of a~~
26 ~~recipient who does not reside on campus at the institution at~~

1 ~~which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship~~
2 ~~shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee expenses and a~~
3 ~~commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of \$7,500.~~

4 (d) The total amount of ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship
5 assistance awarded by the Commission under this Section to an
6 individual in any given fiscal year, when added to other
7 financial assistance awarded to that individual for that year,
8 shall not exceed the total cost of attendance at the
9 institution at which the student is enrolled. If the amount of
10 a minority teacher scholarship to be awarded to a scholarship
11 recipient ~~qualified student~~ as provided in subsection (c) of
12 this Section exceeds the total cost of attendance at the
13 institution at which the student is enrolled, the ~~minority~~
14 teacher scholarship shall be reduced by an amount equal to the
15 amount by which the combined financial assistance available to
16 the recipient ~~student~~ exceeds the total cost of attendance.

17 (e) The maximum number of academic terms for which a
18 recipient ~~qualified student~~ can receive ~~minority~~ teacher
19 scholarship assistance shall be 8 semesters or 12 quarters.

20 (f) In any academic year for which an eligible applicant
21 under this Section accepts financial assistance through the
22 Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program, the Special
23 Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program, or the Teach
24 Illinois Scholarship Program, Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship
25 Program, as authorized by Section 551 et seq. of the Higher
26 Education Act of 1965, the applicant shall not be eligible for

1 scholarship assistance awarded under this Section.

2 (g) All applications for ~~minority~~ teacher scholarships to
3 be awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission
4 on forms which the Commission shall provide ~~for eligible~~
5 ~~applicants~~. Applicants must submit an application annually.
6 Applicants must also complete the Free Application for Federal
7 Student Aid. The form of applications and the information
8 required to be set forth therein shall be determined by the
9 Commission, and the Commission shall require ~~eligible~~
10 applicants to submit with their applications such supporting
11 documents or recommendations as the Commission deems
12 necessary. If an application is incomplete, the Commission
13 shall notify the applicant. The applicant shall then have an
14 opportunity to furnish the missing information; however, the
15 application shall be considered for processing only as of the
16 date when the application is complete and received by the
17 Commission. Applicants may be required to furnish the
18 institution at which they are enrolled with a copy of their
19 high school transcripts, any other documentation verifying
20 high school graduation, or a copy of their State of Illinois
21 High School Diploma.

22 (h) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,
23 payment of any ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship awarded under this
24 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship
25 funds distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be
26 paid to the institution and used only for payment of the

1 tuition and fee and room and board expenses incurred by the
2 student in connection with his or her attendance at a
3 qualified Illinois institution of higher learning. Any
4 ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship awarded under this Section shall
5 be applicable to 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment
6 within a regular academic year. If a recipient ~~qualified~~
7 ~~student~~ withdraws from enrollment prior to completion of the
8 first semester or quarter for which the ~~minority~~ teacher
9 scholarship is applicable, the school shall refund to the
10 Commission the full amount of the ~~minority~~ teacher
11 scholarship.

12 (i) The Commission shall administer the ~~minority~~ teacher
13 scholarship ~~aid~~ program established by this Section and shall
14 make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this
15 Section for its effective implementation. The Commission shall
16 make information available on its website regarding school
17 districts that meet the criteria set forth in the definition
18 of a qualified student under subsection (a).

19 (j) When an appropriation to the Commission for a given
20 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all
21 qualified students, the Commission shall allocate the
22 appropriation in accordance with this subsection. If funds are
23 insufficient to provide all qualified students with a
24 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission
25 shall allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal
26 year to qualified students who submit a timely complete

1 application form on or before a date specified by the
2 Commission based on the following order of priority:

3 (1) To students who received a scholarship under this
4 Section in the prior academic year and who remain eligible
5 for a ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship under this Section.

6 (2) ~~To Except as otherwise provided in subsection (k),~~
7 ~~to~~ students who demonstrate the most financial need, as
8 determined by the Commission.

9 (3) To students with the earliest date of received
10 completed applications.

11 (4) To students enrolled at or above the junior level.

12 ~~(k) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subsection (j), at~~
13 ~~least 35% of the funds appropriated for scholarships awarded~~
14 ~~under this Section in each fiscal year shall be reserved for~~
15 ~~qualified male minority applicants, with priority being given~~
16 ~~to qualified Black male applicants beginning with fiscal year~~
17 ~~2023. If the Commission does not receive enough applications~~
18 ~~from qualified male minorities on or before January 1 of each~~
19 ~~fiscal year to award 35% of the funds appropriated for these~~
20 ~~scholarships to qualified male minority applicants, then the~~
21 ~~Commission may award a portion of the reserved funds to~~
22 ~~qualified female minority applicants in accordance with~~
23 ~~subsection (j).~~

24 ~~If Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$2,850,000~~
25 ~~but less than \$4,200,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal~~
26 ~~year for scholarships awarded under this Section, then at~~

1 least 10% of the funds appropriated shall be reserved for
2 qualified bilingual ~~minority~~ applicants, with priority being
3 given to qualified bilingual ~~minority~~ applicants who are
4 enrolled in an educator preparation program with a
5 concentration in bilingual, bicultural education. ~~If Beginning~~
6 ~~with fiscal year 2023, if~~ at least \$4,200,000 is appropriated
7 in a given fiscal year for the ~~Minority~~ Teachers of Illinois
8 scholarship program, then at least 30% of the funds
9 appropriated shall be reserved for qualified bilingual
10 ~~minority~~ applicants, with priority being given to qualified
11 bilingual ~~minority~~ applicants who are enrolled in an educator
12 preparation program with a concentration in bilingual,
13 bicultural education. For a fiscal year to which this
14 subsection applies, if, on or after January 1 of that fiscal
15 year, appropriated funds remain after awarding reserved funds
16 to Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$2,850,000 is
17 appropriated in a given fiscal year for scholarships awarded
18 under this Section but the Commission does not receive enough
19 applications from qualified bilingual ~~minority~~ applicants on
20 or before January 1 of that fiscal year to award at least 10%
21 of the funds appropriated to qualified bilingual ~~minority~~
22 applicants, then the Commission may, in its discretion, award
23 a portion of the reserved funds to other qualified students in
24 accordance with subsection (j).

25 (1) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
26 academic year, each recipient of a ~~minority~~ teacher

1 scholarship awarded under this Section shall be required by
2 the Commission to sign and submit a teaching agreement or
3 promissory note to the Commission ~~an agreement~~ under which the
4 recipient pledges that, within the one-year period following
5 the termination of the program for which the recipient was
6 awarded a ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship, the recipient (i)
7 shall begin teaching for a period of not less than one year for
8 each year of scholarship assistance he or she was awarded
9 under this Section and shall teach on a continuous basis for
10 the required period of time; (ii) shall fulfill this teaching
11 obligation at a ~~nonprofit Illinois public, private, or~~
12 ~~parochial preschool, elementary school, or secondary school~~
13 district in this State that had a 3-year average teacher
14 vacancy rate at or above the 3-year statewide average teacher
15 vacancy rate, excluding public school districts that had zero
16 vacancies, in any school year among the most recent 3 school
17 years for which data is available from the State Board of
18 Education or a public school district in this State in which
19 the number of teacher vacancies in the district was at or above
20 the statewide average number of teacher vacancies, excluding
21 public school districts that had zero vacancies, in any school
22 year among the most recent 3 school years for which data is
23 available from the State Board of Education ~~at which no less~~
24 ~~than 30% of the enrolled students are minority students~~ in the
25 year during which the recipient begins teaching at the school
26 or may instead, if the recipient received a scholarship as a

1 qualified bilingual ~~minority~~ applicant, fulfill this teaching
2 obligation in a program in transitional bilingual education
3 pursuant to Article 14C of the School Code or in a school in
4 which 20 or more English learner students in the same language
5 classification are enrolled; and (iii) shall, upon request by
6 the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence that he
7 or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching
8 agreement provided for in this subsection. Recipients of a
9 teacher scholarship under this Section are also required to
10 provide the Commission with evidence of compliance with
11 program requirements, including, but not limited to annual
12 follow-up questionnaires. Recipients of a teacher scholarship
13 under this Section must also promise to use the proceeds of the
14 scholarship for educational expenses.

15 (1-5) If, prior to the 2025-2026 academic year, an
16 individual received a scholarship under this Section and
17 signed an agreement pledging to teach at a school meeting
18 specified criteria and that individual receives a subsequent
19 scholarship under this Section on or after the effective date
20 of this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly, then
21 that recipient may complete his or her entire teaching
22 obligation at a school meeting the criteria described in
23 subsection (1) of this Section and the Commission shall
24 consider such employment to satisfy the terms of that
25 recipient's agreement to teach signed before the effective
26 date of this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly.

1 (m) If a recipient of a ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship
2 awarded under this Section fails to fulfill the teaching
3 obligation set forth in subsection (l) of this Section, the
4 scholarship converts to a loan. The repayment period shall be
5 completed within 10 years after the scholarship converts to a
6 loan.

7 The 10-year period may be extended if the recipient (i)
8 serves, for not more than 3 years, as a member of the United
9 States Armed Forces; (ii) is temporarily disabled, for not
10 more than 3 years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a
11 licensed physician; (iii) is seeking and unable to find
12 full-time employment, for one continuous period not to exceed
13 2 years, and is able to provide evidence of that fact; (iv)
14 withdraws from a course of study leading to licensure as a
15 teacher but is enrolled full time in another academic
16 discipline; or (v) is pursuing a graduate course of study and
17 is enrolled on a full-time basis for one continuous period of
18 time not to exceed 3 years. During the time a recipient
19 qualifies for any extensions, the recipient is not required to
20 make payments and interest does not accrue.

21 The recipient shall enter repayment status on the earliest
22 of the following: the first day of the first calendar month
23 after the recipient has ceased to pursue a course of study
24 leading to licensure as a teacher at the preschool,
25 elementary, or secondary level, but not before 6 months have
26 elapsed after the cessation of at least half-time enrollment

1 in such a course of study; the date the recipient informs the
2 Commission that the recipient does not plan to fulfill the
3 teaching obligation; or the day after the latest date upon
4 which the recipient must have begun teaching after completing
5 the postsecondary education for which the scholarship was
6 awarded.

7 The ~~the~~ Commission shall require the recipient to repay
8 the amount of the scholarships received, prorated according to
9 the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, at an
10 annual ~~a~~ rate of interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable,
11 reasonable collection fees. If a recipient who enters into
12 repayment under this subsection (m) subsequently, within 5
13 years of entering repayment, begins to teach at a school
14 meeting the description under subsection (l) of this Section,
15 the Commission may reduce the amount owed by the recipient in
16 proportion to the amount of the teaching obligation completed.
17 ~~The Commission is authorized to establish rules relating to~~
18 ~~its collection activities for repayment of scholarships under~~
19 ~~this Section.~~ All repayments collected under this Section
20 shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller for deposit into
21 the State's General Revenue Fund.

22 A recipient is not required to repay the amount of the
23 scholarship received if the recipient becomes permanently
24 totally disabled, as established by the sworn affidavit of a
25 qualified physician, or if the recipient's representative
26 provides the Commission with a death certificate or other

1 evidence that the recipient has died.

2 (n) A recipient of a ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship shall
3 not be considered in violation of the agreement entered into
4 pursuant to subsection (l) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a
5 full time basis as a graduate student in a course of study
6 related to the field of teaching at a qualified Illinois
7 institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not in excess
8 of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the United
9 States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total disability
10 for a period of time not to exceed 3 years as established by
11 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) is seeking
12 full-time employment for one continuous period not to exceed 2
13 years and is unable to find full time employment as a teacher
14 at a ~~an Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or~~
15 ~~elementary or secondary school district in this State~~ that
16 satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection (l) of this
17 Section and is able to provide evidence of that fact; (v)
18 becomes a person with a permanent total disability as
19 established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (vi)
20 is taking additional courses, on at least a half-time basis,
21 needed to obtain licensure as a teacher in Illinois; or (vii)
22 is fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other
23 programs administered by the Commission and cannot
24 concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a period of
25 time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.

26 (o) Scholarship recipients under this Section who withdraw

1 from a program of teacher education but remain enrolled in
2 school to continue their postsecondary studies in another
3 academic discipline shall not be required to commence
4 repayment of their ~~Minority~~ Teachers of Illinois scholarship
5 so long as they remain enrolled in school on a full-time basis
6 or if they can document for the Commission special
7 circumstances that warrant extension of repayment.

8 (o-5) The Commission may not require repayment of any
9 Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship from any recipient
10 who:

11 (1) received that scholarship during the 2024-2025
12 academic year;

13 (2) would have remained eligible for the Minority
14 Teachers of Illinois scholarship if it remained in effect
15 for the 2026-2027 academic year;

16 (3) does not meet the definition of a qualified
17 student under the Teachers of Illinois scholarship program
18 established by this amendatory Act of the 104th General
19 Assembly; and

20 (4) does not complete the educator preparation program
21 in which the recipient was enrolled when receiving the
22 Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship.

23 (p) The State Board of Education shall furnish all
24 appropriate data referenced within the definition of a
25 qualified student under subsection (a) on a timely basis to
26 the Commission. ~~If the Minority Teachers of Illinois~~

1 ~~scholarship program does not expend at least 90% of the amount~~
2 ~~appropriated for the program in a given fiscal year for 3~~
3 ~~consecutive fiscal years and the Commission does not receive~~
4 ~~enough applications from the groups identified in subsection~~
5 ~~(k) on or before January 1 in each of those fiscal years to~~
6 ~~meet the percentage reserved for those groups under subsection~~
7 ~~(k), then up to 3% of amount appropriated for the program for~~
8 ~~each of next 3 fiscal years shall be allocated to increasing~~
9 ~~awareness of the program and for the recruitment of Black male~~
10 ~~applicants. The Commission shall make a recommendation to the~~
11 ~~General Assembly by January 1 of the year immediately~~
12 ~~following the end of that third fiscal year regarding whether~~
13 ~~the amount allocated to increasing awareness and recruitment~~
14 ~~should continue.~~

15 (q) Each qualified Illinois institution of higher learning
16 that receives funds from the ~~Minority~~ Teachers of Illinois
17 scholarship program ~~shall host an annual information session~~
18 ~~at the institution about the program for teacher candidates of~~
19 ~~color in accordance with rules adopted by the Commission.~~
20 ~~Additionally, the institution shall ensure that each~~
21 ~~scholarship recipient enrolled at the institution meets with~~
22 ~~an academic advisor at least once per academic year to~~
23 ~~facilitate on-time completion of the recipient's educator~~
24 ~~preparation program. Institutions shall also submit~~
25 ~~eligibility information for qualified students in sufficient~~
26 ~~time for the Commission to make award announcements.~~

1 Teacher scholarship awards under this Section shall be
2 paid directly to the approved institution of record that
3 certifies to the Commission that the applicant is an eligible
4 recipient. The Commission shall annually establish priority
5 claim dates for the submission of payment requests and inform
6 institutions of the required priority dates. Late payment
7 requests shall result in the delayed processing of payments.
8 Payment requests shall be processed in the sequence of receipt
9 by the Commission and as funds are available. Institutions may
10 submit their payment requests beginning 10 days prior to the
11 start of classes for the term for which payment is being
12 requested.

13 The Commission shall disburse scholarship funds in 2 or 3
14 installments, depending on the number of terms financed by the
15 scholarship, except that multiple disbursements are not
16 required in cases in which the applicant's eligibility is not
17 determined until the final term of the regular academic year
18 for which the scholarship is being awarded or if a student is
19 attending only one term and the maximum award does not exceed
20 the student's cost of attendance.

21 Funds shall be remitted by the Commission to institutions
22 on behalf of recipients. Upon receipt of scholarship funds,
23 the institution shall verify the recipient's enrollment status
24 for the term for which the award was intended. If enrolled, the
25 institution may credit the scholarship funds to the
26 recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance

1 of the disbursement shall be released to the recipient. Upon
2 receipt of the scholarship funds, if the recipient has
3 withdrawn from enrollment for the terms for which the award
4 was intended, the institution shall return the amount of the
5 scholarship payment to the Commission.

6 (r) The changes made to this Section by this amendatory
7 Act of the 104th General Assembly shall first apply beginning
8 with awards made for the 2025-2026 academic year. ~~The changes~~
9 ~~made to this Section by Public Act 101-654 will first take~~
10 ~~effect with awards made for the 2022-2023 academic year.~~

11 (Source: P.A. 102-465, eff. 1-1-22; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22;
12 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23; 103-448, eff. 8-4-23; revised 7-19-24.)

13 (110 ILCS 947/52)

14 Sec. 52. Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program; Golden
15 Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

16 (a) In this Section, "Foundation" means the Golden Apple
17 Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, a registered 501(c)(3)
18 not-for-profit corporation.

19 (a-2) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois
20 students, ~~especially minority students,~~ to pursue teaching
21 careers, especially in teacher shortage disciplines (which
22 shall be defined to include early childhood education) or at
23 hard-to-staff schools (as defined by the Commission in
24 consultation with the State Board of Education), to provide
25 those students with the crucial mentoring, guidance, and

1 in-service support that will significantly increase the
2 likelihood that they will complete their full teaching
3 commitments and elect to continue teaching in targeted
4 disciplines and hard-to-staff schools, and to ensure that
5 students in this State will continue to have access to a pool
6 of highly qualified ~~highly qualified~~ teachers, each qualified
7 student shall be awarded a Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois
8 Program scholarship to any Illinois institution of higher
9 learning. The Commission shall administer the Golden Apple
10 Scholars of Illinois Program, which shall be managed by the
11 Foundation pursuant to the terms of a grant agreement meeting
12 the requirements of Section 4 of the Illinois Grant Funds
13 Recovery Act.

14 (a-3) For purposes of this Section, a qualified student
15 shall be a student who meets the following qualifications:

16 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or
17 eligible noncitizen of the United States;

18 (2) is a high school graduate or a person who has
19 received a State of Illinois High School Diploma;

20 (3) is enrolled or accepted, on at least a half-time
21 basis, at an institution of higher learning;

22 (4) is pursuing a postsecondary course of study
23 leading to initial certification or pursuing additional
24 course work needed to gain State Board of Education
25 approval to teach, including alternative teacher
26 licensure; and

1 (5) is a participant in programs managed by and is
2 approved to receive a scholarship from the Foundation.

3 (a-5) (Blank).

4 (b) (Blank).

5 (b-5) Funds designated for the Golden Apple Scholars of
6 Illinois Program shall be used by the Commission for the
7 payment of scholarship assistance under this Section or for
8 the award of grant funds, subject to the Illinois Grant Funds
9 Recovery Act, to the Foundation. Subject to appropriation,
10 awards of grant funds to the Foundation shall be made on an
11 annual basis and following an application for grant funds by
12 the Foundation.

13 (b-10) Each year, the Foundation shall include in its
14 application to the Commission for grant funds an estimate of
15 the amount of scholarship assistance to be provided to
16 qualified students during the grant period. Any amount of
17 appropriated funds exceeding the estimated amount of
18 scholarship assistance may be awarded by the Commission to the
19 Foundation for management expenses expected to be incurred by
20 the Foundation in providing the mentoring, guidance, and
21 in-service supports that will increase the likelihood that
22 qualified students will complete their teaching commitments
23 and elect to continue teaching in hard-to-staff schools. If
24 the estimate of the amount of scholarship assistance described
25 in the Foundation's application is less than the actual amount
26 required for the award of scholarship assistance to qualified

1 students, the Foundation shall be responsible for using
2 awarded grant funds to ensure all qualified students receive
3 scholarship assistance under this Section.

4 (b-15) All grant funds not expended or legally obligated
5 within the time specified in a grant agreement between the
6 Foundation and the Commission shall be returned to the
7 Commission within 45 days. Any funds legally obligated by the
8 end of a grant agreement shall be liquidated within 45 days or
9 otherwise returned to the Commission within 90 days after the
10 end of the grant agreement that resulted in the award of grant
11 funds.

12 (c) Each scholarship awarded under this Section shall be
13 in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees and room
14 and board costs of the Illinois institution of higher learning
15 at which the recipient is enrolled, up to an annual maximum of
16 \$5,000; except that, in the case of a recipient who does not
17 reside on campus at the institution of higher learning at
18 which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship
19 shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee expenses and a
20 commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000. All
21 scholarship funds distributed in accordance with this Section
22 shall be paid to the institution on behalf of recipients.

23 (d) The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded by
24 the Commission under this Section to an individual in any
25 given fiscal year, when added to other financial assistance
26 awarded to that individual for that year, shall not exceed the

1 cost of attendance at the institution of higher learning at
2 which the student is enrolled. In any academic year for which a
3 qualified student under this Section accepts financial
4 assistance through any other teacher scholarship program
5 administered by the Commission, a qualified student shall not
6 be eligible for scholarship assistance awarded under this
7 Section.

8 (e) A recipient may receive up to 8 semesters or 12
9 quarters of scholarship assistance under this Section.
10 Scholarship funds are applicable toward 2 semesters or 3
11 quarters of enrollment each academic year.

12 (f) All applications for scholarship assistance to be
13 awarded under this Section shall be made to the Foundation in a
14 form determined by the Foundation. Each year, the Foundation
15 shall notify the Commission of the individuals awarded
16 scholarship assistance under this Section. Each year, at least
17 30% of the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program
18 scholarships shall be awarded to students residing in counties
19 having a population of less than 500,000.

20 (g) (Blank).

21 (h) The Commission shall administer the payment of
22 scholarship assistance provided through the Golden Apple
23 Scholars of Illinois Program and shall make all necessary and
24 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for the
25 effective implementation of this Section.

26 (i) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any

1 academic year, each recipient of a scholarship awarded under
2 this Section shall be required by the Foundation to sign an
3 agreement under which the recipient pledges that, within the
4 2-year period following the termination of the academic
5 program for which the recipient was awarded a scholarship, the
6 recipient: (i) shall begin teaching for a period of not less
7 than 5 years, (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a
8 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or
9 an Illinois public elementary or secondary school that
10 qualifies for teacher loan cancellation under Section
11 465(a)(2)(A) of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
12 U.S.C. 1087ee(a)(2)(A)) or other Illinois schools deemed
13 eligible for fulfilling the teaching commitment as designated
14 by the Foundation, and (iii) shall, upon request of the
15 Foundation, provide the Foundation with evidence that he or
16 she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching
17 agreement provided for in this subsection. Upon request, the
18 Foundation shall provide evidence of teacher fulfillment to
19 the Commission.

20 (j) If a recipient of a scholarship awarded under this
21 Section fails to fulfill the teaching obligation set forth in
22 subsection (i) of this Section, the Commission shall require
23 the recipient to repay the amount of the scholarships
24 received, prorated according to the fraction of the teaching
25 obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and, if
26 applicable, reasonable collection fees. If a recipient who

1 enters into repayment under this subsection (j) subsequently,
2 within 5 years of entering repayment, begins to teach at a
3 school meeting the description under subsection (i) of this
4 Section, the Commission may reduce the amount owed by the
5 recipient in proportion to the amount of the teaching
6 obligation completed. Reduction of the amount owed shall not
7 be construed as reinstatement in the Golden Apple Scholars
8 program. Reinstatement in the program shall be solely at the
9 discretion of the Golden Apple Foundation on terms determined
10 by the Foundation. Payments received by the Commission under
11 this subsection (j) shall be remitted to the State Comptroller
12 for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, except that that
13 portion of a recipient's repayment that equals the amount in
14 expenses that the Commission has reasonably incurred in
15 attempting collection from that recipient shall be remitted to
16 the State Comptroller for deposit into the ISAC Accounts
17 Receivable Fund, a special fund in the State treasury.

18 (k) A recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Foundation
19 under this Section shall not be considered to have failed to
20 fulfill the teaching obligations of the agreement entered into
21 pursuant to subsection (i) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a
22 full-time basis as a graduate student in a course of study
23 related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher
24 learning; (ii) is serving as a member of the armed services of
25 the United States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total
26 disability, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified

1 physician; (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time
2 employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the
3 criteria set forth in subsection (i) and is able to provide
4 evidence of that fact; (v) is taking additional courses, on at
5 least a half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a
6 teacher in Illinois; (vi) is fulfilling teaching requirements
7 associated with other programs administered by the Commission
8 and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a
9 period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation;
10 or (vii) is participating in a program established under
11 Executive Order 10924 of the President of the United States or
12 the federal National Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
13 12501 et seq.). Any such extension of the period during which
14 the teaching requirement must be fulfilled shall be subject to
15 limitations of duration as established by the Commission.

16 (l) A recipient who fails to fulfill the teaching
17 obligations of the agreement entered into pursuant to
18 subsection (i) of this Section shall repay the amount of
19 scholarship assistance awarded to them under this Section
20 within 10 years.

21 (m) Annually, at a time determined by the Commission in
22 consultation with the Foundation, the Foundation shall submit
23 a report to assist the Commission in monitoring the
24 Foundation's performance of grant activities. The report shall
25 describe the following:

26 (1) the Foundation's anticipated expenditures for the

1 next fiscal year;

2 (2) the number of qualified students receiving
3 scholarship assistance at each institution of higher
4 learning where a qualified student was enrolled under this
5 Section during the previous fiscal year;

6 (3) the total monetary value of scholarship funds paid
7 to each institution of higher learning at which a
8 qualified student was enrolled during the previous fiscal
9 year;

10 (4) the number of scholarship recipients who completed
11 a baccalaureate degree during the previous fiscal year;

12 (5) the number of scholarship recipients who fulfilled
13 their teaching obligation during the previous fiscal year;

14 (6) the number of scholarship recipients who failed to
15 fulfill their teaching obligation during the previous
16 fiscal year;

17 (7) the number of scholarship recipients granted an
18 extension described in subsection (k) of this Section
19 during the previous fiscal year;

20 (8) the number of scholarship recipients required to
21 repay scholarship assistance in accordance with subsection
22 (j) of this Section during the previous fiscal year;

23 (9) the number of scholarship recipients who
24 successfully repaid scholarship assistance in full during
25 the previous fiscal year;

26 (10) the number of scholarship recipients who

1 defaulted on their obligation to repay scholarship
2 assistance during the previous fiscal year;

3 (11) the amount of scholarship assistance subject to
4 collection in accordance with subsection (j) of this
5 Section at the end of the previous fiscal year;

6 (12) the amount of collected funds to be remitted to
7 the Comptroller in accordance with subsection (j) of this
8 Section at the end of the previous fiscal year; and

9 (13) other information that the Commission may
10 reasonably request.

11 (n) Nothing in this Section shall affect the rights of the
12 Commission to collect moneys owed to it by recipients of
13 scholarship assistance through the Illinois Future Teacher
14 Corps Program, repealed by Public Act 98-533.

15 (o) The Auditor General shall prepare an annual audit of
16 the operations and finances of the Golden Apple Scholars of
17 Illinois Program. This audit shall be provided to the
18 Governor, General Assembly, and the Commission.

19 (p) The suspension of grant making authority found in
20 Section 4.2 of the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act shall not
21 apply to grants made pursuant to this Section.

22 (Source: P.A. 102-1071, eff. 6-10-22; 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23;
23 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-448, eff. 8-4-23; revised
24 10-16-24.)

25 (110 ILCS 947/65.110)

1 Sec. 65.110. Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work
2 Professional Educator License scholarship.

3 (a) Subject to appropriation, beginning with awards for
4 the 2022-2023 academic year, the Commission shall award
5 annually up to 250 Post-Master of Social Work School Social
6 Work Professional Educator License scholarships to a person
7 who:

8 (1) holds a valid Illinois-licensed clinical social
9 work license or social work license;

10 (2) has obtained a master's degree in social work from
11 an approved program;

12 (3) is a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;
13 and

14 (4) submits an application to the Commission for such
15 scholarship and agrees to take courses to obtain an
16 Illinois Professional Educator License with an endorsement
17 in School Social Work.

18 (b) If an appropriation for this Section for a given
19 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all
20 qualified applicants, the Commission shall allocate the
21 appropriation as follows ~~in accordance with this subsection~~
22 ~~(b). If funds are insufficient to provide all qualified~~
23 ~~applicants with a scholarship as authorized by this Section,~~
24 ~~the Commission shall allocate the available scholarship funds~~
25 ~~for that fiscal year to qualified applicants who submit a~~
26 ~~complete application on or before a date specified by the~~

1 ~~Commission, based on the following order of priority:~~

2 (1) first ~~firstly~~, to students who received a
3 scholarship under this Section in the prior academic year
4 and who remain eligible for a scholarship under this
5 Section;

6 (2) (blank) ~~secondly, to new, qualified applicants who~~
7 ~~are members of a racial minority, as defined in subsection~~
8 ~~(e); and~~

9 (3) then finally, to ~~other~~ new, qualified applicants
10 in accordance with this Section.

11 (c) Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be
12 issued pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission. ~~In~~
13 ~~awarding scholarships, the Commission shall give priority to~~
14 ~~those applicants who are members of a racial minority. Racial~~
15 ~~minorities are underrepresented as school social workers in~~
16 ~~elementary and secondary schools in this State, and the~~
17 ~~General Assembly finds that it is in the interest of this State~~
18 ~~to provide them with priority consideration for programs that~~
19 ~~encourage their participation in this field and thereby foster~~
20 ~~a profession that is more reflective of the diversity of~~
21 ~~Illinois students and the parents they will serve. A more~~
22 ~~reflective workforce in school social work allows improved~~
23 ~~outcomes for students and a better utilization of services.~~
24 ~~Therefore, the Commission shall give priority to those~~
25 ~~applicants who are members of a racial minority. In this~~
26 ~~subsection (c), "racial minority" means a person who is a~~

1 ~~citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident of~~
2 ~~the United States and who is:~~

3 ~~(1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black~~
4 ~~racial groups in Africa);~~

5 ~~(2) Hispanic (a person of Spanish or Portuguese~~
6 ~~culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America,~~
7 ~~or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race);~~

8 ~~(3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of~~
9 ~~the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the~~
10 ~~Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or~~

11 ~~(4) American Indian or Alaskan Native (a person having~~
12 ~~origins in any of the original peoples of North America).~~

13 (d) Each scholarship shall be applied to the payment of
14 tuition and mandatory fees at the University of Illinois,
15 Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University,
16 Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University,
17 Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University,
18 Northern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University.
19 Each scholarship may be applied to pay tuition and mandatory
20 fees required to obtain an Illinois Professional Educator
21 License with an endorsement in School Social Work.

22 (e) The Commission shall make tuition and fee payments
23 directly to the qualified institution of higher learning that
24 the applicant attends.

25 (f) Any person who has accepted a scholarship under this
26 Section must, within one year after graduation or termination

1 of enrollment in a Post-Master of Social Work Professional
2 Education License with an endorsement in School Social Work
3 program, begin working as a school social worker at a public or
4 nonpublic not-for-profit preschool, elementary school, or
5 secondary school located in this State for at least 2 of the 5
6 years immediately following that graduation or termination,
7 excluding, however, from the computation of that 5-year
8 period: (i) any time up to 3 years spent in the military
9 service, whether such service occurs before or after the
10 person graduates; (ii) the time that person is a person with a
11 temporary total disability for a period of time not to exceed 3
12 years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified
13 physician; and (iii) the time that person is seeking and
14 unable to find full-time employment as a school social worker
15 at a State public or nonpublic not-for-profit preschool,
16 elementary school, or secondary school.

17 (g) If a recipient of a scholarship under this Section
18 fails to fulfill the work obligation set forth in subsection
19 (f), the Commission shall require the recipient to repay the
20 amount of the scholarships received, prorated according to the
21 fraction of the obligation not completed, at a rate of
22 interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable
23 collection fees. The Commission is authorized to establish
24 rules relating to its collection activities for repayment of
25 scholarships under this Section. All repayments collected
26 under this Section shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller

1 for deposit into this State's General Revenue Fund.

2 A recipient of a scholarship under this Section is not
3 considered to be in violation of the failure to fulfill the
4 work obligation under subsection (f) if the recipient (i)
5 enrolls on a full-time basis as a graduate student in a course
6 of study related to the field of social work at a qualified
7 Illinois institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not
8 in excess of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the
9 United States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total
10 disability for a period of time not to exceed 3 years, as
11 established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician;
12 (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time employment as a
13 school social worker at an Illinois public or nonpublic
14 not-for-profit preschool, elementary school, or secondary
15 school that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection (f)
16 and is able to provide evidence of that fact; or (v) becomes a
17 person with a permanent total disability, as established by
18 the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.

19 (Source: P.A. 102-621, eff. 1-1-22; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22;
20 102-1030, eff. 5-27-22.)

21 (110 ILCS 947/65.115)

22 Sec. 65.115. School and Municipal Social Work Shortage
23 Loan Repayment Program.

24 (a) To encourage Illinois students to work, and to
25 continue to work, as a school social worker in public school

1 districts in this State or in State municipalities, the
2 Commission shall, each year, receive and consider applications
3 for loan repayment assistance under this Section. This program
4 shall be known as the School and Municipal Social Work
5 Shortage Loan Repayment Program. The Commission shall
6 administer the program and shall adopt all necessary and
7 proper rules to effectively implement the program.

8 (b) Beginning July 1, 2022, subject to a separate
9 appropriation made for such purposes, the Commission shall
10 award a grant, up to a maximum of \$6,500, to each qualified
11 applicant. The Commission may encourage the recipient of a
12 grant under this Section to use the grant award for repayment
13 of the recipient's educational loan. ~~If an appropriation for~~
14 ~~this program for a given fiscal year is insufficient to~~
15 ~~provide grants to all qualified applicants, the Commission~~
16 ~~shall allocate the appropriation in accordance with this~~
17 ~~subsection.~~ If funds are insufficient to provide all qualified
18 applicants with a grant as authorized by this Section, the
19 Commission shall allocate the available grant funds for the
20 ~~that~~ fiscal year to qualified applicants who submit a complete
21 application on or before a date specified by the Commission,
22 based on the following order of priority:

- 23 (1) first, to students who received a grant under this
24 Section in the prior fiscal year and who remain eligible
25 for a grant under this Section ~~new, qualified applicants~~
26 ~~who are members of a racial minority as defined in~~

1 ~~subsection (e); and~~

2 (2) then ~~second~~, to ~~other~~ new, qualified applicants in
3 accordance with this Section.

4 (c) A person is a qualified applicant under this Section
5 if he or she meets all of the following qualifications:

6 (1) The person is a United States citizen or eligible
7 noncitizen.

8 (2) The person is a resident of this State.

9 (3) The person is a borrower with an outstanding
10 balance due on an educational loan related to obtaining a
11 degree in social work.

12 (4) The person has been employed as a school social
13 worker by a public elementary school or secondary school
14 in this State for at least 12 consecutive months or as a
15 social worker for an Illinois municipality who did not
16 report directly to a police department.

17 (5) The person is currently employed as a school
18 social worker by a public elementary school or secondary
19 school in this State or as a social worker for an Illinois
20 municipality who does not report directly to a police
21 department.

22 (d) An applicant shall submit an application, in a form
23 determined by the Commission, for grant assistance under this
24 Section to the Commission. An applicant is required to submit,
25 with the application, supporting documentation as the
26 Commission may deem necessary.

1 (e) (Blank). ~~Racial minorities are underrepresented as~~
2 ~~school social workers in elementary and secondary schools and~~
3 ~~in municipalities in Illinois, and the General Assembly finds~~
4 ~~that it is in the interest of this State to provide them~~
5 ~~priority consideration for programs that encourage their~~
6 ~~participation in this field and thereby foster a profession~~
7 ~~that is more reflective of the diversity of Illinois~~
8 ~~residents, students and parents they will serve. A more~~
9 ~~reflective workforce in social work allows improved outcomes~~
10 ~~for individuals and a better utilization of services.~~
11 ~~Therefore, the Commission shall give priority to those~~
12 ~~applicants who are members of a racial minority. In this~~
13 ~~subsection (c), "racial minority" means a person who is a~~
14 ~~citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident~~
15 ~~alien of the United States and who is:~~

16 ~~(1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black~~
17 ~~racial groups in Africa);~~

18 ~~(2) Hispanic (a person of Spanish or Portuguese~~
19 ~~culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America,~~
20 ~~or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race);~~

21 ~~(3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of~~
22 ~~the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the~~
23 ~~Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or~~

24 ~~(4) American Indian or Alaskan Native (a person having~~
25 ~~origins in any of the original peoples of North America).~~

26 (Source: P.A. 102-622, eff. 7-1-22; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22;

1 102-1022, eff. 1-1-23.)

2 (110 ILCS 947/65.120)

3 Sec. 65.120. iGROW Tech Scholarship Program.

4 (a) As used in this Section:

5 "Eligible applicant" means a student who has graduated
6 from high school or has received a State of Illinois High
7 School Diploma, who has maintained a cumulative grade point
8 average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, who is pursuing or
9 intends to pursue a qualifying degree in a qualified
10 institution, and who is entitled to apply for assistance under
11 this Section.

12 "Full-time" means the number of credit hours the
13 Commission determines is full-time enrollment for a student
14 for purposes of the program created under this Section.

15 ~~"Minority student" has the same meaning as the term is~~
16 ~~defined under Section 50 of the Higher Education Student~~
17 ~~Assistance Act (110 ILCS 947).~~

18 "Program" means the iGROW Tech Scholarship Program created
19 under this Section.

20 "Qualifying degree" means an associate or a bachelor's
21 degree granted by a qualified institution in the field of
22 computer information sciences; information technology;
23 information science; computer science; computer systems
24 networking and telecommunications; computer and information
25 systems security or information assurance, including

1 cybersecurity; or management information systems.

2 "Qualifying job" means a job with an employer in this
3 State performing work that is directly related to the field of
4 study that qualified the candidate for assistance under this
5 Section.

6 "Qualified student" means a person (i) who is a resident
7 of this State; (ii) who, as an eligible applicant, has made a
8 timely application for an iGROW tech scholarship under this
9 Section; (iii) who is enrolled on at least a half-time basis at
10 a qualified institution; (iv) who is enrolled in a course of
11 study in the field of computer and information sciences;
12 information technology; information science; computer science;
13 computer systems networking and telecommunications; computer
14 and information systems security or information assurance,
15 including cybersecurity; or management information systems;
16 (v) who maintains a grade point average of no less than a 2.5
17 on a 4.0 scale; and (vi) who continues to advance
18 satisfactorily toward the attainment of a degree.

19 "Recipient" means an Illinois resident enrolled in a
20 qualified institution who receives an award under this
21 Section.

22 (b) Subject to appropriation, and no sooner than the
23 2024-2025 academic year, there is established the Illinois
24 Graduate and Retain Our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Scholarship
25 Program to recruit and train individuals to work in technology
26 jobs that have a high demand for new employees and offer high

1 wages by awarding scholarships.

2 (c) Each iGROW tech scholarship awarded under this Section
3 shall be determined by the Commission in an amount up to and
4 including the full costs of tuition and fees and room and board
5 of the qualified institution at which the recipient is
6 enrolled if the institution is public, or an equivalent rate
7 established by the Commission for private institutions. The
8 total amount of iGROW tech scholarship assistance awarded by
9 the Commission under this Section to an eligible applicant in
10 any given fiscal year, when added to other financial
11 assistance awarded to that individual for that year, shall not
12 exceed the cost of attendance at the institution at which the
13 student is enrolled. If the amount of financial assistance to
14 be awarded to a qualified student exceeds the cost of
15 attendance at the institution at which the student is
16 enrolled, the iGROW tech scholarship shall be reduced by an
17 amount equal to the amount by which the combined financial
18 assistance available to the student exceeds the cost of
19 attendance.

20 (d) The maximum number of academic terms for which a
21 qualified student can receive iGROW tech scholarship
22 assistance shall be 8 semesters or 12 quarters.

23 (e) All applications for scholarships awarded under this
24 Section shall be made to the Commission on forms which the
25 Commission shall provide for eligible applicants. The form of
26 applications and the information required to be set forth

1 therein shall be determined by the Commission, and the
2 Commission shall require eligible applicants to submit with
3 their applications such supporting documents or
4 recommendations as the Commission deems necessary.

5 (f) Subject to appropriation for such purposes, payment of
6 any iGROW tech scholarship awarded under this Section shall be
7 determined by the Commission. All scholarship funds
8 distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be paid
9 to the qualified institution and used only for payment of the
10 tuition and fees assessed by the institution and the standard
11 housing and food allowance used for all undergraduate students
12 by the qualified student in connection with his or her
13 attendance at a qualified institution.

14 Any iGROW tech scholarship awarded under this Section
15 shall be applicable to 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment
16 annually. The qualified institution can only request payment
17 for tuition and fees up to the amount of actual tuition and fee
18 expenses incurred.

19 If a student withdraws after the expiration of the tuition
20 refund or withdrawal adjustment period, the student may
21 receive payment for tuition and fees incurred up to the term
22 award. The housing and food allowance shall be prorated based
23 on the qualified institution's return of funds policy.

24 (g) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
25 academic year, each recipient of an iGROW tech scholarship
26 awarded under this Section shall be required by the Commission

1 to sign an agreement under which the recipient pledges that
2 the recipient (i) shall work in the State in a qualified job
3 for a period of not less than one year for each year of
4 scholarship assistance he or she was awarded under this
5 Section; however, in no event shall he or she agree to work in
6 the State in a qualified job for a period of less than 2 years;
7 and (ii) shall, upon request by the Commission, provide the
8 Commission with evidence that he or she is fulfilling or has
9 fulfilled the terms of the agreement provided for in this
10 subsection.

11 If a recipient of an iGROW tech scholarship awarded under
12 this Section fails to fulfill the obligations set forth in
13 this subsection, the Commission shall require the recipient to
14 repay the amount of the scholarships received, prorated
15 according to the fraction of the employment obligation not
16 completed, at a rate of interest equal to 5%, and, if
17 applicable, reasonable collection fees. The Commission is
18 authorized to establish rules relating to its collection
19 activities for repayment of scholarships under this Section.
20 All repayments collected under this Section shall be forwarded
21 to the State Comptroller for deposit into the State's General
22 Revenue Fund.

23 A recipient of an iGROW tech scholarship shall not be
24 considered in violation of the agreement entered into pursuant
25 to this subsection if the recipient (I) enrolls on a full-time
26 basis as a graduate student in a course of study related to the

1 technology degree for which he or she qualified for the iGROW
2 tech scholarship at a qualified institution; (II) is serving,
3 not in excess of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of
4 the United States; (III) is a person with a temporary total
5 disability for a period of time not to exceed 3 years as
6 established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (IV)
7 is seeking and unable to find full-time employment with a
8 State employer that satisfies the criteria set forth in this
9 subsection and is able to provide evidence of that fact; (V)
10 becomes a person with a permanent total disability as
11 established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; or
12 (VI) meets any other criteria that the Commission may deem
13 necessary.

14 (h) Scholarship recipients under this Section who withdraw
15 from a program of computer science or other related major area
16 of study provided under this Section but remain enrolled in
17 school to continue their postsecondary studies in another
18 academic discipline shall not be required to commence
19 repayment of their iGROW tech scholarship so long as they
20 remain enrolled in school on a full-time basis or if they can
21 document for the Commission special circumstances that warrant
22 extension of repayment.

23 (i) If the Program does not expend at least 90% of the
24 amount appropriated for the Program in a given fiscal year for
25 3 consecutive fiscal years on or before January 1 in each of
26 those fiscal years, then up to 3% of amount appropriated for

1 the Program for each of next 3 fiscal years shall be allocated
2 to increasing awareness of the program.

3 (j) The Commission shall administer the Program and shall
4 make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this
5 Section for its effective implementation.

6 (k) The Commission shall establish a methodology for
7 prioritizing applications from applicants who demonstrate a
8 financial need or hardship, ~~applications from minority~~
9 ~~students,~~ and applications from applicants demonstrating
10 academic excellence. After the first academic year that the
11 Program operates, the Commission shall prioritize the
12 applications of those applicants who received a scholarship
13 under this Section during the prior academic year and who
14 remain eligible for a scholarship under this Section.

15 (l) Each fiscal year, the Commission may use up to 5% of
16 money appropriated for the Program for administration.

17 (m) Scholarships may be made under this Section through
18 the 2029-30 academic year.

19 (n) The Illinois Graduate and Retain Our Workforce (iGROW)
20 Tech Scholarship Fund is created as a special fund in the State
21 treasury. Moneys in the fund may come from both public
22 entities and institutional, organizational, or other private
23 entities. All money in the Fund shall be used, subject to
24 appropriation, by the Commission to implement and administer
25 the Program pursuant to this Section.

26 (Source: P.A. 103-519, eff. 1-1-24.)

1 (110 ILCS 947/65.30 rep.)

2 Section 25. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
3 amended by repealing Section 65.30.

4 Section 30. The Community Behavioral Health Care
5 Professional Loan Repayment Program Act is amended by changing
6 Section 25 as follows:

7 (110 ILCS 996/25)

8 Sec. 25. Award; maximum loan time; maximum amount. Subject
9 to appropriation, the Commission shall award a grant to each
10 qualified applicant for a maximum of 4 years. The Commission
11 must encourage the recipient of a grant awarded under this Act
12 to use the grant award for payments towards the recipient's
13 educational loans. The amount of the grant shall not exceed
14 (i) \$40,000 per year for a psychiatrist, (ii) \$20,000 per year
15 for an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician
16 assistant, (iii) \$20,000 per year for a psychologist who holds
17 a doctoral degree, (iv) \$15,000 per year for a licensed
18 clinical social worker, a licensed clinical professional
19 counselor, or a licensed marriage and family therapist, (v)
20 \$4,000 per year for a substance use professional, a certified
21 alcohol and drug counselor, or a certified recovery support
22 specialist, (vi) \$12,000 per year for a professional
23 possessing a master's degree in counseling, psychology, social

1 work, or marriage and family therapy, and (vii) \$6,000 per
2 year for a professional possessing a bachelor's degree in
3 counseling, psychology, or social work.

4 ~~No less than 30% of the funding for grants under this~~
5 ~~Section each fiscal year shall be reserved for awards to~~
6 ~~minority applicants of African American or Black, Hispanic or~~
7 ~~Latinx, Asian, or Native American origin. If the Commission~~
8 ~~does not receive enough applications from qualified minorities~~
9 ~~on or before January 1 of a given fiscal year to award 30% of~~
10 ~~the funding to qualified minority applicants, then the~~
11 ~~Commission may award a portion of these reserved funds to~~
12 ~~other qualified applicants.~~

13 (Source: P.A. 103-56, eff. 7-1-24.)

14 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are
15 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
17 becoming law.

| | | |
|----|---|-------------------------|
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| 3 | 110 ILCS 180/130-5 | |
| 4 | 110 ILCS 930/2 | from Ch. 144, par. 2302 |
| 5 | 110 ILCS 930/3 | from Ch. 144, par. 2303 |
| 6 | 110 ILCS 930/4 | from Ch. 144, par. 2304 |
| 7 | 110 ILCS 930/6 | from Ch. 144, par. 2306 |
| 8 | 110 ILCS 930/7 | from Ch. 144, par. 2307 |
| 9 | 110 ILCS 930/7.5 new | |
| 10 | 110 ILCS 930/8 | from Ch. 144, par. 2308 |
| 11 | 110 ILCS 930/8.5 new | |
| 12 | 110 ILCS 930/10 | from Ch. 144, par. 2310 |
| 13 | 110 ILCS 930/11 | from Ch. 144, par. 2311 |
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