



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4229

Introduced 1/14/2026, by Rep. Katie Stuart

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Higher Education Enrollment Fraud Act. Requires the Board of Higher Education to convene a working group to develop policies and procedures for institutions of higher education to prevent fraudulent enrollment in online courses for the purpose of gaining access to financial aid, campus information technology systems, and student support services. Requires each institution of higher education to complete an annual cybersecurity self-assessment of its information technology infrastructure to determine its Information Technology Laboratory score and annually report local and systemwide technology and data security measures that support improved oversight of fraud mitigation, online learning quality, and cybersecurity efforts to the Board. Requires the self-assessment and report to be submitted to the Board by December 15, 2026 and each December 15 thereafter and the Board to compile a report of these submissions and submit that report to the General Assembly by January 15, 2027 and each January 15 thereafter. Includes other information an institution of higher education must submit related to enrollment fraud. Effective immediately.

LRB104 16470 LNS 29865 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Higher
5 Education Enrollment Fraud Act.

6 Section 5. Definition. As used in this Act, "institution
7 of higher education" means any public or private college or
8 university located in this State, including a public community
9 college.

10 Section 10. Enrollment fraud working group.

11 (a) The Board of Higher Education shall convene a working
12 group, consisting of representatives the Board deems
13 necessary, to develop policies and procedures for institutions
14 of higher education to prevent fraudulent enrollment in online
15 courses for the purpose of gaining access to financial aid,
16 campus information technology systems, and student support
17 services. The Board shall submit a report of its findings to
18 the General Assembly by January 15, 2027.

19 (b) This Section is repealed on January 15, 2028.

20 Section 15. Required self-assessment.

21 (a) Each institution of higher education shall complete an

1 annual cybersecurity self-assessment of its information
2 technology infrastructure to determine its Information
3 Technology Laboratory score and annually report local and
4 systemwide technology and data security measures that support
5 improved oversight of fraud mitigation, online learning
6 quality, and cybersecurity efforts to the Board of Higher
7 Education. The self-assessment shall include, but not be
8 limited to, the following information:

9 (1) the amount of fraudulent student enrollments
10 reported since the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March
11 2020 or since the previous self-assessment;

12 (2) the percentage of fraudulent enrollments among
13 total enrollments;

14 (3) any trends or patterns that can be identified in
15 fraudulent enrollments, including preferred course types,
16 such as online, in-person, or hybrid;

17 (4) the amount of financial aid that has been
18 disbursed to fraudulent students annually since the
19 COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020 or since the
20 previous self-assessment;

21 (5) the estimated financial loss due to fraudulent
22 enrollments;

23 (6) the specific costs associated with fraud
24 prevention, including systemwide expenditures on
25 cybersecurity, admissions verification, and
26 administrative oversight;

1 (7) how fraudulent enrollments have impacted the
2 distribution of State funding to the institution of higher
3 education;

4 (8) any strategies the institution of higher education
5 has implemented to detect and prevent fraudulent
6 enrollments;

7 (9) any barriers that prevent the institution of
8 higher education from effectively addressing fraudulent
9 enrollments;

10 (10) if any classes have been canceled due to
11 fraudulent enrollments failing to meet minimum student
12 thresholds;

13 (11) if fraudulent enrollments contribute to
14 inefficient resource allocation, including offering
15 unnecessary course sections;

16 (12) the effectiveness of any systemwide fraud
17 mitigation strategies used to reduce fraudulent
18 enrollments;

19 (13) if the Board of Higher Education or the
20 institution of higher education's governing body has
21 provided sufficient guidance and support to combat fraud;

22 (14) any additional policies or resources needed to
23 address the ongoing threat of fraudulent enrollments; and

24 (15) the impact on real students, including whether
25 real students are prevented from getting classes due to
26 fraudulent students.

1 The self-assessment and report shall be submitted to the
2 Board of Higher Education by December 15, 2026 and each
3 December 15 thereafter, and the Board shall compile a report
4 of these submissions and submit that report to the General
5 Assembly by January 15, 2027 and each January 15 thereafter.

6 (b) In addition to the self-assessment in subsection (a),
7 each institution of higher education shall submit to the Board
8 of Higher Education:

9 (1) a remediation update twice per year, for the fall
10 and spring semesters, on vulnerability and other issues
11 identified in the most recent self-assessment;

12 (2) a detailed after-action report of all
13 cybersecurity incidents that either led to a breach of
14 personally identifiable information or led to the
15 disruption of services, including, but not limited to, a
16 breach of student identification numbers, distributed
17 denial-of-service attacks, and ransomware;

18 (3) a report of the total number of admission
19 applications received that are determined to be
20 fraudulent, including applications considered to be likely
21 fraudulent, on an annual basis; and

22 (4) information that was requested on suspected
23 fraudulent enrollments and the fraudulent receipt of
24 financial aid, on an annual basis.

25 The Board of Higher Education shall compile an annual
26 report of these submissions and submit the report to the

1 General Assembly.

2 (c) If the self-assessment and reporting required under
3 subsection (a) or the submissions required under subsection
4 (b) are duplicative of other information provided by an
5 institution of higher education to the Board of Higher
6 Education, the institution of higher education may submit that
7 information in lieu of the self-assessment and reporting
8 required under subsection (a) or the submissions required
9 under subsection (b).

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law.