



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4304

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

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Higher Education Student Bill of Rights Act. Provides that a student attending a postsecondary education institution in the State is entitled to the following rights: the right to an inclusive and safe learning environment; the right to equal access; the right to safety and respect; the right to accessibility; the right to free expression; the right to organize; the right to peaceful protest; the right to academic transparency; the right to fair evaluation; the right to educational records; the right to educational programs safeguarded from political interference; the right to career preparation; the right to educational quality; the right to due process; the right to representation; the right to institutional accountability; the right to financial transparency; the right to fair lending and borrowing practices; the right to timely refunds and withdrawals; and the right to transfer.

LRB104 16443 LNS 29835 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 Student Bill of Rights Act.

6 Section 5. Higher Education Student Bill of Rights. A  
7 student attending a postsecondary education institution in  
8 this State is entitled to all of the following rights:

9 (1) The right to an inclusive and safe learning  
10 environment. Every student has the right to learn in an  
11 environment that is respectful, inclusive, and free from  
12 discrimination, harassment, or bias based on race,  
13 ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion,  
14 disability, socioeconomic status, or any other protected  
15 characteristic. A postsecondary education institution must  
16 actively foster a culture of belonging, ensure physical  
17 and psychological safety, and provide accessible resources  
18 to support all students in their academic and personal  
19 growth.

20 (2) The right to equal access. No student may be  
21 excluded from or denied participation in educational  
22 programs or activities on the basis of race, color, sex,  
23 sexual orientation, parental status, gender identity,

1 disability, age, or religion.

2 (3) The right to safety and respect. Every student is  
3 entitled to a learning environment free from harassment,  
4 intimidation, and retaliation. A postsecondary education  
5 institution must actively foster a culture of belonging,  
6 ensure physical and psychological safety, and provide  
7 accessible resources to support all students in their  
8 academic and personal growth.

9 (4) The right to accessibility. A student with a  
10 disability is entitled to reasonable accommodations to  
11 ensure equal academic and campus participation.

12 (5) The right to free expression. A student retains  
13 the student's constitutional rights to free speech, press,  
14 assembly, and petition within the academic environment.

15 (6) The right to organize. A student may form and join  
16 associations or organizations without unreasonable  
17 interference from the postsecondary education institution.

18 (7) The right to peaceful protest. A student may  
19 engage in lawful and peaceful protest, subject to  
20 reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions.

21 (8) The right to academic transparency. Every student  
22 has the right to clear, accurate, and timely information  
23 regarding courses, degree pathways, credit  
24 transferability, and graduation criteria.

25 (9) The right to fair evaluation. A student's academic  
26 performance must be assessed solely on demonstrated

1 learning and achievement, not bias or personal opinion.

2 (10) The right to educational records. A student has  
3 the right to inspect, review, and request corrections to  
4 the student's educational records.

5 (11) The right to educational programs safeguarded  
6 from political interference. Every student has the right  
7 to access educational programs that are guided by academic  
8 integrity, while meeting standards of professional and  
9 disciplinary review.

10 (12) The right to career preparation. A student has  
11 the right to an education that adequately prepares the  
12 student with skills for the workforce, an understanding of  
13 how those skills align with a career of the student's  
14 choice and ability, and an opportunity to achieve  
15 credentials of value.

16 (13) The right to educational quality. A student has  
17 the right to a high-quality, independently accredited  
18 education, with an integrated curriculum across the  
19 student's educational journey, that broadens the student's  
20 mind, teaches broadly applicable skills, and prepares the  
21 student for democratic citizenship.

22 (14) The right to due process. Every student must  
23 receive a fair disciplinary process, including notice of  
24 charges, access to evidence, and an impartial hearing,  
25 particularly at a public institution.

26 (15) The right to representation. A student may bring

1 an advisor, advocate, or legal counsel to proceedings that  
2 materially affect the student's enrollment or reputation.

3 (16) The right to institutional accountability. A  
4 postsecondary education institution must follow its  
5 published policies, and every student has the right to  
6 appeal decisions that deviate from those policies.

7 (17) The right to financial transparency. Every  
8 student is entitled to the clear disclosure of tuition,  
9 fees, and all related financial obligations prior to and  
10 throughout enrollment.

11 (18) The right to fair lending and borrowing  
12 practices. A student borrower has the right to accurate  
13 loan information, fair treatment, and protection from  
14 predatory practices.

15 (19) The right to timely refunds and withdrawals.  
16 Every student is entitled to transparent institutional  
17 policies on tuition refunds, withdrawals, and  
18 cancellations.

19 (20) The right to transfer. Every student has the  
20 right to unlimited transfer credits between postsecondary  
21 education institutions, so long as the receiving  
22 postsecondary education institution is willing to accept  
23 the student.