



Sen. Robert Peters

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10400SB0409sam001

LRB104 06647 KTG 25240 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 409

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 409 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 44 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/44)

7 Sec. 44. Pat McGuire Child Welfare Education Fellowship  
8 Pilot Program.

9 (a) The General Assembly makes all of the following  
10 findings:

11 (1) The Department of Children and Family Services is  
12 the sole State agency for the planning and coordination of  
13 programs and services for the prevention of child abuse  
14 and neglect. The Department also provides social services  
15 to children and their families, operates children's  
16 institutions, and provides certain other rehabilitative

1 and residential services. The Department contracts with  
2 many purchase of service agencies for the administration  
3 of these programs.

4 (2) Due to numerous factors, including the rate of  
5 pay, purchase of service agencies have a high employee  
6 turnover rate and struggle to maintain consistent  
7 employment levels. This high turnover is disruptive to the  
8 delivery of direct child welfare services to families and  
9 youth in care.

10 (3) A number of public institutions of higher  
11 education in this State offer child welfare social work  
12 programs that are designed to train and prepare students  
13 for employment in the child welfare social work field,  
14 including, but not limited to, employment at purchase of  
15 service agencies that provide direct child welfare  
16 services to families and youth in care.

17 (4) The Department and public institutions of higher  
18 education have a mutual interest in providing greater  
19 access to child welfare social work education for a  
20 professional workforce that is responsive to the work of  
21 the Department through purchase of service agencies.

22 (b) As used in this Section:

23 "Department" means the Department of Children and Family  
24 Services.

25 "Direct service" means a position in foster care services,  
26 intact services, foster care licensing, adoption, or

1 permanency or a supervisory position in the practice area.

2 "Eligible applicant" means a student who is enrolled in a  
3 social work program of study at a participating institution of  
4 higher education and who meets all of the qualifications as  
5 determined by the Department.

6 "Participating institution" means a public university in  
7 this State that is a party to an intergovernmental agreement  
8 entered into with the Department, or a private university that  
9 is party to an agreement entered into with the Department, in  
10 order to participate in the program established under this  
11 Section.

12 "Tuition, university fees, and books" includes the  
13 customary charge for instruction and books or course material  
14 and the additional fixed fees charged for specified purposes  
15 that are required generally of students who are not program  
16 applicants under this Section for each academic year for which  
17 a program applicant under this Section actually enrolls, but  
18 does not include room and board, transportation fees, fees  
19 payable only once, breakage fees, and other contingent  
20 deposits that are refundable in whole or in part. The  
21 Department may adopt, by rule not inconsistent with this  
22 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of  
23 tuition, university fees, and books.

24 (c) Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year and  
25 continuing for a period of 6 academic years, the Department  
26 shall establish and administer the Pat McGuire Child Welfare

1 Education Fellowship Pilot Program to provide financial  
2 assistance to a diverse pool of eligible students who commit  
3 to seek and maintain employment at a purchase of service  
4 agency that contracts with the Department upon graduation from  
5 a participating institution with a degree in social work. The  
6 goal of the program is to develop and support an effective and  
7 stable direct service child welfare workforce. Pursuant to the  
8 Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, each participating  
9 institution shall enter into and adhere to all of the  
10 provisions of an intergovernmental agreement between the  
11 Department and the participating institution. Subject to  
12 appropriation, the stipend program shall be available to  
13 eligible applicants in this State pursuing either a Bachelor  
14 of Social Work or a Master of Social Work degree at a  
15 participating institution. The Department may award a stipend  
16 of up to \$10,000 each academic year for a maximum of 2 academic  
17 years, up to a maximum total of \$20,000 in stipends for the 2  
18 academic years combined, to a student under this Section if  
19 the participating institution and the Department find that the  
20 applicant meets all criteria established by the Department.

21 (d) Each participating institution and the Department  
22 shall determine renewal criteria for assistance consistent  
23 with the requirements of this Section.

24 (e) Each participating institution shall post on its  
25 Internet website the criteria and eligibility requirements to  
26 receive a stipend award of funds under this Section and must

1 identify that the stipend awards are up to a maximum of \$10,000  
2 per student per academic year for a maximum of 2 academic  
3 years, with the total amount of stipends awarded to an  
4 eligible applicant or student not to exceed \$20,000 for the  
5 duration of the eligible applicant's or student's  
6 participation in the program. This information must also be  
7 reported to the Department and the Board of Higher Education,  
8 and the Department and the Board shall post the information on  
9 their respective Internet websites.

10 (f) Prior to receiving a stipend for any academic year, an  
11 eligible applicant under this Section shall be required by the  
12 participating institution to sign an agreement with the  
13 Department under which the stipend recipient pledges that,  
14 within 6 months from the date of the stipend recipient's  
15 graduation from the participating institution with a Bachelor  
16 of Social Work or a Master of Social Work degree for which  
17 stipend funds were paid by the Department, the stipend  
18 recipient must search for, apply to, and accept full-time  
19 employment in a direct service position at a Department  
20 purchase of service agency located anywhere in this State. The  
21 stipend recipient must remain as a full-time employee in a  
22 direct service position at a Department purchase of service  
23 agency located anywhere in this State for at least 18 months  
24 for each academic year the stipend recipient received a  
25 stipend from the Department under the program.

26 (g) If the recipient of a stipend award under this Section

1 fails to search for, apply to, and accept full-time employment  
2 in a direct service position at a Department purchase of  
3 service agency located anywhere in this State within 6 months  
4 following the stipend recipient's graduation from a social  
5 work program at a participating institution, the Department  
6 shall require the stipend recipient to begin to repay the  
7 total amount of the stipend received within 90 calendar days  
8 after the end of the 6-month period or as agreed to by the  
9 Department. The repayment amount shall be prorated according  
10 to the fraction of the employment obligation not completed, at  
11 a rate of interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable  
12 attorney's and collection fees. All repayments collected under  
13 this Section shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller for  
14 deposit into the fund from which the stipend awards were paid.

15 (h) A stipend recipient under this Section must  
16 immediately notify the participating institution and the  
17 Department of any changes to the stipend recipient's  
18 enrollment status or if the stipend recipient withdraws from  
19 the social work program for which the recipient was awarded a  
20 stipend under the program.

21 (i) If a stipend recipient's qualified employment is  
22 terminated for any reason other than for cause, a stipend  
23 recipient must search for, apply to, and accept new,  
24 qualified, full-time employment in a direct service position  
25 at a Department purchase of service agency located anywhere in  
26 this State within 90 calendar days from the stipend

1 recipient's termination of full-time employment, otherwise the  
2 stipend recipient is subject to the repayment of stipend funds  
3 to the Department.

4 (j) If a stipend recipient's qualified employment is  
5 terminated for cause prior to the completion of the program's  
6 employment requirement, the stipend recipient shall repay the  
7 total amount of stipends received under the program within 90  
8 calendar days from termination or as agreed to by the  
9 Department. The amount of repayment owed by the recipient  
10 shall be prorated based on the amount of the employment  
11 requirement that has been satisfied.

12 (k) On or before October 1, 2023 and each October 1  
13 thereafter during the Pat McGuire Child Welfare Education  
14 Fellowship Pilot Program, the Department shall provide a  
15 report and evaluation of the results of the program at each  
16 participating institution to the General Assembly and the  
17 Office of the Governor. Each participating institution shall  
18 track a student's eligibility under the program, the  
19 completion of educational requirements, the costs of each  
20 student's tuition, university fees, and books, and the  
21 application of the recipient's stipends during the recipient's  
22 enrollment at the participating institution. The report shall  
23 also include the location in this State where each stipend  
24 recipient was hired and shall identify the purchase of service  
25 agency, the duration of the recipient's employment, and the  
26 termination date of the recipient's employment.

1           (1) The sharing and reporting of student data under  
2 subsection (k) shall be in accordance with the federal Family  
3 Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Illinois  
4 School Student Records Act. All parties under this Section  
5 must preserve the confidentiality of information as required  
6 by law. The names of stipend recipients under this Section are  
7 not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information  
8 Act.

9           (m) The Department is authorized to adopt rules to  
10 implement and administer this Section.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-80, eff. 7-9-21; 102-848, eff. 1-1-23.)".