



Sen. Robert Peters

Filed: 4/29/2025

10400SB0409sam002

LRB104 06647 KTG 25609 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 child welfare contributing agencies ~~purchase of~~
3 ~~service agencies~~ for the administration of these programs.

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

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

24 (b) As used in this Section:

25 "Department" means the Department of Children and Family
26 Services.

1 "Direct service" means a position in foster care services,
2 intact services, foster care licensing, adoption, or
3 permanency or a supervisory position in the practice area.

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

8 "Participating institution" means a ~~public~~ university in
9 this State that is a party to an ~~intergovernmental~~ agreement
10 entered into with the Department in order to participate in
11 the program established under this 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 child welfare
4 contributing agency ~~purchase of service agency~~ that contracts
5 with the Department upon graduation from a participating
6 institution with a degree in social work. The goal of the
7 program is to develop and support an effective and stable
8 direct service child welfare workforce. Each ~~Pursuant to the~~
9 ~~Intergovernmental Cooperation Act,~~ each participating
10 institution shall enter into and adhere to all of the
11 provisions of an ~~intergovernmental~~ agreement between the
12 Department and the participating institution. Subject to
13 appropriation, the stipend program shall be available to
14 eligible applicants in this State pursuing either a Bachelor
15 of Social Work or a Master of Social Work degree at a
16 participating institution. The Department may award a stipend
17 of up to \$10,000 each academic year for a maximum of 2 academic
18 years, up to a maximum total of \$20,000 in stipends for the 2
19 academic years combined, to a student under this Section if
20 the participating institution and the Department find that the
21 applicant meets all criteria established by the Department.

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

25 (e) Each participating institution shall post on its
26 Internet website the criteria and eligibility requirements to

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

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

1 stipend from the Department under the program.

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

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

24 (i) If a stipend recipient's qualified employment is
25 terminated for any reason other than for cause, a stipend
26 recipient must search for, apply to, and accept new,

1 qualified, full-time employment in a direct service position
2 at a Department child welfare contributing agency ~~purchase of~~
3 ~~service agency~~ located anywhere in this State within 90
4 calendar days from the stipend recipient's termination of
5 full-time employment, otherwise the stipend recipient is
6 subject to the repayment of stipend funds to the Department.

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

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

1 recipient was hired and shall identify the child welfare
2 contributing agency ~~purchase of service agency~~, the duration
3 of the recipient's employment, and the termination date of the
4 recipient's employment.

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

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

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