



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1298

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Sen. Graciela Guzmán

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/12-4.13b

Amends the Administration Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that any program of study at a public institution of higher education that improves employability shall be considered equivalent to an acceptable SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program component, unless prohibited by federal law. Defines "public institution of higher education". Requires the Department of Human Services to adopt any rules necessary to implement the amendatory Act. Provides that rulemaking shall not delay full implementation of the amendatory Act. Effective immediately.

LRB104 09715 KTG 19781 b

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
5 changing Section 12-4.13b as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.13b)

7 Sec. 12-4.13b. College student eligibility for
8 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits.

9 (a) For the purposes of Section 273.5(b)(11)(ii) of Title
10 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, a career and technical
11 educational program offered at a community college and
12 approved by the Illinois Community College Board that could be
13 a component of a SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program,
14 as identified by the Department of Human Services, shall be
15 considered an employment and training program under Section
16 273.7 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, unless
17 prohibited by federal law.

18 (a-5) For the purposes of Section 273.5(b)(11)(iv) of
19 Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, any program of
20 study at a public institution of higher education that
21 improves employability shall be considered equivalent to an
22 acceptable SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program
23 component under Section 273.7(e) of Title 7 of the Code of

1 Federal Regulations, unless prohibited by federal law. As used
2 in this subsection, "public institution of higher education"
3 has the meaning ascribed to that term in Section 1 of the Board
4 of Higher Education Act.

5 (b) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with
6 representatives of the Illinois Community College Board, the
7 Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the Illinois Workforce
8 Innovation Board, and advocates for students and SNAP
9 recipients, shall establish a protocol to identify and verify
10 all potential exemptions to the eligibility rule described in
11 Section 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal
12 Regulations, and to identify and verify a student's
13 participation in educational programs, including, but not
14 limited to, self-initiated placements, that would exempt a
15 student from the eligibility rule described in Section
16 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. To the
17 extent possible, this consultation shall take place through
18 existing workgroups convened by the Department of Human
19 Services.

20 (c) If the United States Department of Agriculture
21 requires federal approval of the exemption designation
22 established pursuant to subsection (a) and the protocol
23 established pursuant to subsection (b), the Department of
24 Human Services shall seek and obtain that approval before
25 publishing the guidance or regulation required by subsection
26 (e).

1 (d)(1) This Section does not require the Department of
2 Human Services to offer a particular component, support
3 services, or workers' compensation to a college student found
4 eligible for an exemption pursuant to this Section.

5 (2) This Section does not restrict or require the use of
6 federal funds for the financing of SNAP E&T programs.

7 (3) This Section does not require an institution of higher
8 education to verify eligibility for SNAP.

9 (e) The Department of Human Services shall adopt any rules
10 necessary to implement the provisions of subsections (a),
11 (a-5), (b), (c), and (d). Rulemaking shall not delay the full
12 implementation of this Section.

13 (Source: P.A. 100-620, eff. 7-20-18; 101-560, eff. 8-23-19.)

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.