



Rep. Kam Buckner

Filed: 5/30/2025

10400SB1331ham001

LRB104 07500 LNS 26983 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1331

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 1331 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Transitions in Education Act is amended by
5 changing Section 130-5 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 180/130-5)

7 Sec. 130-5. Findings; policies.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds the following:

9 (1) Teachers are the single most important in-school
10 factor in supporting student outcomes and success; yet,
11 Illinois is suffering from a profound teacher shortage
12 across the State.

13 (2) To reverse this shortage, Illinois needs to
14 develop and invest in a robust and diverse educator
15 pipeline, addressing any barriers or gaps that limit high
16 quality candidates, particularly candidates of color, from

1 becoming teachers.

2 (3) Illinois loses many high quality, diverse educator
3 candidates in postsecondary programs due to confusion or
4 lack of course transfer credits and course articulation
5 from Illinois's 2-year to 4-year institutions.

6 (4) Lack of alignment and transferability of course
7 credits may often force candidates to spend additional
8 time and money to earn a degree or lead to an inability to
9 complete a degree.

10 (5) In 1993, the Board of Higher Education, the
11 Illinois Community College Board, and the Transfer
12 Coordinators of Illinois Colleges and Universities brought
13 together faculty from public and independent, associate,
14 and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions across the
15 State to develop the Illinois Articulation Initiative
16 (IAI).

17 (6) The goal of IAI is to facilitate the transfer of
18 courses from one participating college or university to
19 another in order to complete a baccalaureate degree.

20 (7) The Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR)
21 Act, as mandated by subsection (b) of Section 25 of the
22 Act, is designed to facilitate transfer among Illinois
23 public institutions, particularly for students with a
24 completed Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science
25 degree.

26 (8) While Illinois is a leading state for college

1 completion rates for adult learners and transfer students
2 from community colleges, it needs to increase the number
3 of high-quality postsecondary teaching credentials to meet
4 the demands of our schools and education workforce.

5 (9) With the rising costs of higher education for
6 Illinois students and families, the State needs to ensure
7 to the maximize extent possible that community college
8 courses will transfer with full credit for the student and
9 be accepted at an Illinois public or private institution
10 as they pursue a baccalaureate degree in education.

11 (10) Illinois can do this by improving transitions all
12 along the education pipeline; for postsecondary education,
13 this means strengthening articulation through stable
14 funding and the expansion of transfer tools, such as
15 Transferology and the IAI through development of an
16 objective measure of transfer and acceptance of credits in
17 education degrees.

18 (11) The IAI Education Pathway can be modeled off of
19 existing IAI major pathways like Early Childhood Education
20 and Criminal Justice.

21 (b) The General Assembly encourages the Board of Higher
22 Education, the State Board of Education, and the Illinois
23 Community College Board, as part of the IAI, to do the
24 following:

25 (1) The Board of Higher Education, the State Board of
26 Education, and the Illinois Community College Board are

1 encouraged to jointly establish a task force for a Major
2 Panel in Education and identify respective recommended
3 major courses that would be accepted as credit toward the
4 education major at the receiving institutions.

5 (2) As part of the report on the status of the Illinois
6 Articulation Initiative pursuant to Section 25 of the
7 Illinois Articulation Initiative Act, the Board of Higher
8 Education and the Illinois Community College Board are
9 encouraged to include in the annual report to the General
10 Assembly, the Governor, and the Illinois P-20 Council the
11 progress made on the task force on the Education Major
12 Panel.

13 (3) The Board of Higher Education, the State Board of
14 Education, and the Illinois Community College Board are
15 encouraged to further promote and encourage the enrollment
16 of minority students into educator preparation programs,
17 ~~such as the annual information session about the Minority~~
18 ~~Teachers of Illinois scholarship program pursuant to~~
19 ~~subsection (q) of Section 50 of the Higher Education~~
20 ~~Student Assistance Act.~~

21 (Source: P.A. 101-654, eff. 3-8-21.)

22 "Section 10. The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in
23 Illinois Act is amended by changing Sections 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8,
24 10, and 11 and by adding Sections 7.5, 8.5, 11.10, and 11.15 as
25 follows:

1 (110 ILCS 930/2) (from Ch. 144, par. 2302)

2 Sec. 2. Definitions. As used in this Act, unless the
3 context otherwise requires:

4 "Academic year" means the period of time beginning with
5 the fall term in one calendar year and running through the end
6 of the summer term in the following calendar year.

7 "Board" means the Board of Higher Education.

8 "DFI" means the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in
9 Illinois Program of financial assistance ~~to minorities who are~~
10 ~~traditionally underrepresented as participants in~~
11 ~~postsecondary education.~~ The program shall assist successful
12 applicants ~~them~~ in pursuing a graduate or professional degree
13 and shall also assist program graduates to find employment at
14 an Illinois institution of higher education, including a
15 community college, in a faculty or staff position.

16 "Illinois resident" means any United States citizen or
17 lawful permanent resident of the United States who meets at
18 least one of the following requirements:

19 (1) has earned a degree from an institution of higher
20 education authorized to operate in this State; or

21 (2) is a registered voter in this State and has lived
22 in this State for a period of at least 3 years prior to
23 applying for a grant under this Act.

24 The status of Illinois residency of a student at the time
25 of initial matriculation in the DFI shall hold for his or her

1 entire time in his or her graduate or professional study at the
2 DFI institution.

3 "Institutional representative" means the designated
4 individual who is responsible for coordinating DFI activities
5 at each qualified institution of higher education.

6 "Program Board" means the entity created to administer the
7 grant program authorized by this Act.

8 "Qualified institution of higher education" means a
9 qualifying publicly ~~or privately~~ operated educational
10 institution located within Illinois (i) that offers
11 instruction leading toward or prerequisite to an academic or
12 professional degree beyond the baccalaureate degree, excluding
13 theological schools, ~~and~~ (ii) that is authorized to operate in
14 the State of Illinois, and (iii) in which at least 45% of
15 students receive federal Pell Grants, which shall be based on
16 the 3-year average proportion of federal Pell Grant recipients
17 at Illinois public universities using the most recent data
18 available to the Board.

19 ~~"Racial minority" means a person who is a citizen of the~~
20 ~~United States or a lawful permanent resident of the United~~
21 ~~States and who is any of the following:~~

22 ~~(1) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person having~~
23 ~~origins in any of the original peoples of North and South~~
24 ~~America, including Central America, and who maintains~~
25 ~~tribal affiliation or community attachment).~~

26 ~~(2) Asian (a person having origins in any of the~~

1 ~~original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the~~
2 ~~Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited to,~~
3 ~~Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan,~~
4 ~~the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam).~~

5 ~~(3) Black or African American (a person having origins~~
6 ~~in any of the black racial groups of Africa).~~

7 ~~(4) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban, Mexican,~~
8 ~~Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish~~
9 ~~culture or origin, regardless of race).~~

10 ~~(5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a~~
11 ~~person having origins in any of the original peoples of~~
12 ~~Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).~~

13 (Source: P.A. 102-465, eff. 1-1-22; 102-1030, eff. 5-27-22.)

14 (110 ILCS 930/3) (from Ch. 144, par. 2303)

15 Sec. 3. Composition of the Program Board. The Program
16 Board shall be comprised of 11 members and shall be appointed
17 by the Board of Higher Education. The Board shall name the
18 chair person of the Program Board. The Program Board shall
19 name the vice chair person of the Program Board and make any
20 necessary subcommittee appointments. Persons appointed to the
21 Program Board shall include, but need not be limited to,
22 individuals who are in leadership positions in public
23 institutions of higher education, including community
24 colleges. Program Board members shall serve 2-year terms and
25 shall continue to serve until a replacement or reappointment

1 is determined. There are no term limits for members of the
2 Program Board. Illinois institutions that grant doctoral
3 degrees must have representation on the Program Board.

4 ~~The Board shall assure that racial minorities who are~~
5 ~~traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education~~
6 ~~programs and activities are members of the Program Board.~~

7 (Source: P.A. 101-354, eff. 8-9-19.)

8 (110 ILCS 930/4) (from Ch. 144, par. 2304)

9 Sec. 4. Responsibilities of the Program Board. The Program
10 Board shall be responsible for:

11 (a) Establishing policy for administration of the DFI
12 grant program authorized under this Act, including program
13 guidelines for the operation of the DFI and criteria to
14 promote placement of grant recipients.

15 (b) Creating the application materials, setting
16 application deadlines, reviewing applications, ~~Reviewing~~
17 and approving applications for participation in the DFI
18 grant program.

19 (c) Establishing subcommittees or panels as necessary
20 to review applications and promote student placement.

21 (d) Reporting annually to the Board on program
22 outcomes and results, including lists of new and
23 continuing scholarship award recipients by institution,
24 level, and field of study; lists of recipients retained in
25 the program from the previous year; lists of placements of

1 most recent program graduates; a description of
2 institutional efforts to place program graduates; and a
3 description of policy and administrative actions designed
4 to increase placement of grant recipients.

5 (e) Disseminating information regarding the DFI to
6 qualified institutions of higher education for
7 distribution.

8 (f) Prioritizing fields of study for awarding DFI
9 funds annually.

10 (g) Meeting at least 3 times per year.

11 (Source: P.A. 93-862, eff. 8-4-04.)

12 (110 ILCS 930/6) (from Ch. 144, par. 2306)

13 Sec. 6. DFI grants. A program of financial assistance is
14 established to implement the policy of encouraging ~~minority~~
15 students to enroll and complete academic programs at the
16 postbaccalaureate level and to enhance the diversity of
17 faculty and staff of Illinois institutions of higher
18 education. The Board of Higher Education shall provide
19 administrative assistance for the Program Board and shall
20 distribute funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this
21 purpose in accordance with decisions made by the Program
22 Board.

23 (Source: P.A. 93-862, eff. 8-4-04.)

24 (110 ILCS 930/7) (from Ch. 144, par. 2307)

1 Sec. 7. Eligibility for DFI grants. Institutions of higher
2 education shall verify that student applicants meet the
3 eligibility requirements for DFI grants. An individual is
4 eligible for an award under the provisions of this Act if ~~when~~
5 the Program Board finds:

6 (a) that ~~That~~ the individual is an Illinois ~~a~~ resident
7 ~~of this State~~ and a citizen or lawful permanent resident
8 of the United States;

9 (b) (blank); ~~That the individual is a member of a~~
10 ~~racial minority as defined under the terms of this Act;~~

11 (c) that ~~That~~ the individual ~~has earned any~~
12 ~~educational diploma at an institution of education located~~
13 ~~in this State, or is an Illinois~~ ~~a~~ resident ~~of the State~~
14 for no less than 3 ~~three~~ years prior to applying for the
15 grant, and the individual holds ~~must hold~~ a baccalaureate
16 degree from an institution of higher education authorized
17 to operate in this State ~~learning~~;

18 (d) that ~~That~~ the individual's financial resources are
19 such that, in the absence of a DFI grant, the individual
20 will be prevented from pursuing a graduate or professional
21 degree at a qualified institution of higher education of
22 his or her choice;

23 (e) that ~~That~~ the individual has above average
24 academic ability to pursue a graduate or professional
25 degree, as evidenced by the following:

26 (1) a minimum grade point average of a C+ (2.75 on

1 a grade scale of 4.00 = A) in the last 60 hours of
2 undergraduate work; and

3 (2) admission to a post-baccalaureate degree
4 program at a qualified institution of higher
5 education; and

6 (f) that ~~That~~ the individual meets other
7 qualifications, which shall be established by the Program
8 Board; ~~;~~

9 (g) that the individual was a federal Pell Grant
10 recipient at any point while earning a baccalaureate
11 degree;

12 (h) that the individual is admitted as a full-time
13 student, as defined by the institution of higher
14 education, for at least 9 months of the year pursuing a
15 doctoral, master's, or post-baccalaureate professional
16 degree program at a qualified institution of higher
17 education;

18 (i) that the individual has signed an agreement to
19 meet this Act's employment conditions if a DFI award is
20 accepted; and

21 (j) in order to maintain eligibility in the DFI and in
22 order to be considered for subsequent DFI grants, that the
23 individual meets the scholastic requirements and
24 eligibility for financial assistance required by the
25 institution of higher education in which he or she is
26 enrolled as a DFI participant.

1 ~~Grant funds shall be awarded only to those persons~~
2 ~~pursuing a graduate or professional degree program at a~~
3 ~~qualified institution of higher education.~~

4 ~~The Board shall by rule promulgate, pursuant to the~~
5 ~~Illinois Administrative Procedure Act, precise standards to be~~
6 ~~used by the Program Board to determine whether a program~~
7 ~~applicant has above average academic ability to pursue a~~
8 ~~graduate or professional degree.~~

9 (Source: P.A. 102-1030, eff. 5-27-22.)

10 (110 ILCS 930/7.5 new)

11 Sec. 7.5. Institution and institutional representative
12 responsibilities.

13 (a) A DFI institution shall:

14 (1) be a qualified institution of higher education;

15 (2) commit to providing leadership, information, and
16 placement opportunities for DFI fellows;

17 (3) designate an institutional representative; and

18 (4) recover funds provided to a student who does not
19 meet the conditions of an award under Section 10 of this
20 Act and return the funds to the Board.

21 (b) A DFI representative shall:

22 (1) actively recruit students who will be eligible for
23 DFI awards and verify to the Program Board that applicants
24 for DFI financial assistance meet all eligibility
25 requirements;

1 (2) maintain records for award recipients, including
2 DFI application materials, contracts, and records of award
3 payments;

4 (3) provide award recipients with academic and support
5 services, such as mentoring, counseling, and other
6 activities that would enhance the chances for degree
7 completion and success in achieving the goals of the DFI;

8 (4) supervise the payment of awards from funds awarded
9 by the Program Board;

10 (5) collect, process, and forward to the Program
11 Board, by the announced deadline each spring, all new
12 applications and renewal forms from eligible students; and

13 (6) assist award recipients who complete their program
14 of study in seeking a full-time teaching or administrative
15 position at an Illinois institution of higher education or
16 a full-time position as an employee of this State in an
17 educational-related capacity; such positions may include,
18 without limitation, administrative positions in State
19 elementary, secondary, or higher education agencies.

20 (110 ILCS 930/8) (from Ch. 144, par. 2308)

21 Sec. 8. Application. The Program Board shall design the
22 application for the DFI award and determine the timetable for
23 submission of the application. A student shall apply directly
24 to the qualified institution of higher education that he or
25 she plans to attend. All new applications and renewal forms

1 shall be submitted by the institution of higher education on
2 behalf of the student to the Program Board, with the
3 institution's verification and endorsement.

4 (Source: P.A. 93-862, eff. 8-4-04.)

5 (110 ILCS 930/8.5 new)

6 Sec. 8.5. Determining and administering awards. In
7 determining the recipients of awards, the Program Board shall
8 favor recipients who received awards in previous years and who
9 maintain conditions of eligibility as set forth in Section 7
10 and have made satisfactory academic progress toward a degree,
11 as determined by each institution of higher education, as long
12 as no student receives assistance for more than 4 years. In
13 administering awards, the Program Board shall:

14 (1) determine the award amount annually;

15 (2) direct the Board to deliver the awards to the
16 institution of higher education to disburse to the
17 recipients, conditioned upon the recipients' satisfactory
18 academic progress; and

19 (3) attempt to achieve distribution of the awards
20 among qualified institutions of higher education so that
21 the awards are distributed equitably within fields of
22 study.

23 Grant funds shall be distributed by an institution of
24 higher education to grantees during the period of DFI
25 enrollment, not to exceed 12 months per award.

1 (110 ILCS 930/10) (from Ch. 144, par. 2310)

2 Sec. 10. Conditions of award.

3 (a) As used in this Section, "good faith effort" includes
4 actively seeking employment and maintaining contact with the
5 institutional representative and Program Board.

6 (b) Conditions for acceptance of a DFI award are that the
7 recipient shall agree to do the following:

8 (1) accept a teaching or nonteaching full-time
9 appointment at an Illinois institution of higher
10 education; ~~or~~

11 (2) accept a position as an employee of this State in
12 an administrative, educational-related position, as
13 determined by the Program Board, for the period equal to
14 the number of years that he or she was a participant in the
15 DFI; such positions shall include, without limitation,
16 administrative positions in State elementary, secondary,
17 or higher education agencies; or-

18 (3) make a good faith effort to secure such a position
19 for a time period of no less than 5 years.

20 (Source: P.A. 93-862, eff. 8-4-04.)

21 (110 ILCS 930/11) (from Ch. 144, par. 2311)

22 Sec. 11. Penalty for failure to fulfill the conditions of
23 a DFI award. If the obligation of the award is not met,
24 repayment of the funds awarded shall ~~may~~ be required according

1 to procedures developed by the ~~Program~~ Board.

2 (Source: P.A. 93-862, eff. 8-4-04.)

3 (110 ILCS 930/11.10 new)

4 Sec. 11.10. Relation to Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act.
5 All grants under this Act are subject to the Illinois Grant
6 Funds Recovery Act.

7 (110 ILCS 930/11.15 new)

8 Sec. 11.15. Applicability. The changes made to this Act by
9 this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly shall first
10 apply beginning with awards made for the 2025-2026 academic
11 year.

12 (110 ILCS 930/11.5 rep.)

13 Section 15. The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in
14 Illinois Act is amended by repealing Section 11.5.

15 Section 20. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
16 amended by changing Section 50 as follows:

17 (110 ILCS 947/50)

18 Sec. 50. ~~Minority~~ Teachers of Illinois scholarship
19 program.

20 (a) As used in this Section:

21 ~~"Eligible applicant" means a minority student who has~~

1 ~~graduated from high school or has received a State of~~
2 ~~Illinois High School Diploma and has maintained a~~
3 ~~cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0~~
4 ~~scale, and who by reason thereof is entitled to apply for~~
5 ~~scholarships to be awarded under this Section.~~

6 ~~"Minority student" means a student who is any of the~~
7 ~~following:~~

8 ~~(1) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person~~
9 ~~having origins in any of the original peoples of North~~
10 ~~and South America, including Central America, and who~~
11 ~~maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment).~~

12 ~~(2) Asian (a person having origins in any of the~~
13 ~~original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or~~
14 ~~the Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited~~
15 ~~to, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,~~
16 ~~Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and~~
17 ~~Vietnam).~~

18 ~~(3) Black or African American (a person having~~
19 ~~origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa).~~

20 ~~(4) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban,~~
21 ~~Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or~~
22 ~~other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race).~~

23 ~~(5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a~~
24 ~~person having origins in any of the original peoples~~
25 ~~of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).~~

26 ~~"Qualified bilingual minority applicant" means a~~

1 qualified student who demonstrates proficiency in a
2 language other than English by (i) receiving a State Seal
3 of Biliteracy from the State Board of Education or (ii)
4 receiving a passing score on an educator licensure target
5 language proficiency test.

6 "Qualified student" means a student who: ~~person~~

7 (i) was enrolled in a public school district in
8 this State, at any point in kindergarten through grade
9 12, that had an average of least 70% of students who
10 were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch during
11 the most recent 3 school years for which data is
12 available from the State Board of Education;

13 (ii) was either:

14 (A) enrolled in a public school district in
15 this State, at any point in kindergarten through
16 grade 12, that had a 3-year average teacher
17 vacancy rate at or above the 3-year statewide
18 average teacher vacancy rate, excluding public
19 school districts that had zero vacancies, in any
20 school year among the most recent 3 school years
21 for which data is available from the State Board
22 of Education; or

23 (B) enrolled in a public school district in
24 this State, at any point in kindergarten through
25 grade 12, in which the number of teacher vacancies
26 in the district was at or above the statewide

1 average number of teacher vacancies, excluding
2 public school districts that had zero vacancies,
3 in any school year among the most recent 3 school
4 years for which data is available from the State
5 Board of Education;

6 (iii) has graduated from high school or has
7 received a State of Illinois High School Diploma;

8 (iv) who is an Illinois a resident of this State
9 and a citizen or permanent resident of the United
10 States; ~~(ii) who is a minority student, as defined in~~
11 ~~this Section; (iii) who, as an eligible applicant,~~

12 (v) has made a timely application for a teacher
13 ~~minority teaching~~ scholarship under this Section;

14 (vi) (iv) who is enrolled on at least a half-time
15 basis at a qualified Illinois institution of higher
16 learning;

17 (vii) (v) who is enrolled in a course of study
18 leading to teacher licensure, including alternative
19 teacher licensure, to be a preschool, elementary, or
20 secondary school teacher, or, if the student is
21 already licensed to teach, in a course of study
22 leading to an additional teaching endorsement or a
23 master's degree in an academic field in which he or she
24 is teaching or plans to teach or who has received one
25 or more College and Career Pathway Endorsements
26 pursuant to Section 80 of the Postsecondary and

1 Workforce Readiness Act and commits to enrolling in a
2 course of study leading to teacher licensure,
3 including alternative teacher licensure, to be a
4 preschool, elementary, or secondary school teacher;

5 (viii) ~~(vi)~~ who maintains a grade point average of
6 no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and

7 (ix) ~~(vii)~~ who continues to advance satisfactorily
8 toward the attainment of a degree.

9 (b) The Commission shall determine, at its discretion, how
10 to verify whether an applicant is a qualified student. The
11 Commission shall award teacher scholarships under this Section
12 to qualified students who demonstrate to the Commission that
13 they satisfy the requirements and purpose of this Section. All
14 qualified students may apply. In order to encourage
15 academically talented Illinois minority students to pursue
16 teaching careers at the preschool or elementary or secondary
17 school level and to address and alleviate the teacher shortage
18 crisis in this State described under the provisions of the
19 Transitions in Education Act, each qualified student shall be
20 awarded a minority teacher scholarship to any qualified
21 Illinois institution of higher learning. However, preference
22 may be given to qualified applicants enrolled at or above the
23 junior level.

24 (c) The annual teacher scholarship amount shall be
25 computed by the institution. Each minority teacher scholarship
26 awarded under this Section shall be in an amount sufficient to

1 pay the total cost of attendance ~~tuition and fees and room and~~
2 ~~board costs~~ of the qualified Illinois institution of higher
3 learning at which the recipient is enrolled, ~~up to an annual~~
4 ~~maximum of \$5,000; except that in the case of a recipient who~~
5 ~~does not reside on campus at the institution at which he or she~~
6 ~~is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship shall be sufficient~~
7 ~~to pay tuition and fee expenses and a commuter allowance, up to~~
8 ~~an annual maximum of \$5,000. However, if at least \$2,850,000~~
9 ~~is appropriated in a given fiscal year for the Minority~~
10 ~~Teachers of Illinois scholarship program, then, in each fiscal~~
11 ~~year thereafter, each scholarship awarded under this Section~~
12 ~~shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees~~
13 ~~and room and board costs of the qualified Illinois institution~~
14 ~~of higher learning at which the recipient is enrolled, up to an~~
15 ~~annual maximum of \$7,500; except that in the case of a~~
16 ~~recipient who does not reside on campus at the institution at~~
17 ~~which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship~~
18 ~~shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee expenses and a~~
19 ~~commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of \$7,500.~~

20 (d) The total amount of minority teacher scholarship
21 assistance awarded by the Commission under this Section to an
22 individual in any given fiscal year, when added to other
23 financial assistance awarded to that individual for that year,
24 shall not exceed the total cost of attendance at the
25 institution at which the student is enrolled. If the amount of
26 a minority teacher scholarship to be awarded to a scholarship

1 ~~recipient qualified student~~ as provided in subsection (c) of
2 this Section exceeds the total cost of attendance at the
3 institution at which the student is enrolled, the ~~minority~~
4 teacher scholarship shall be reduced by an amount equal to the
5 amount by which the combined financial assistance available to
6 the ~~recipient student~~ exceeds the total cost of attendance.

7 (e) The maximum number of academic terms for which a
8 ~~recipient qualified student~~ can receive ~~minority~~ teacher
9 scholarship assistance shall be 8 semesters or 12 quarters.

10 (f) In any academic year for which an eligible applicant
11 under this Section accepts financial assistance through the
12 Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program, the Special
13 Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program, or the Teach
14 Illinois Scholarship Program, Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship
15 Program, as authorized by Section 551 et seq. of the Higher
16 Education Act of 1965, the applicant shall not be eligible for
17 scholarship assistance awarded under this Section.

18 (g) All applications for ~~minority~~ teacher scholarships to
19 be awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission
20 on forms which the Commission shall provide ~~for eligible~~
21 ~~applicants.~~ Applicants must submit an application annually.
22 Applicants must also complete the Free Application for Federal
23 Student Aid. The form of applications and the information
24 required to be set forth therein shall be determined by the
25 Commission, and the Commission shall require ~~eligible~~
26 applicants to submit with their applications such supporting

1 documents or recommendations as the Commission deems
2 necessary. If an application is incomplete, the Commission
3 shall notify the applicant. The applicant shall then have an
4 opportunity to furnish the missing information; however, the
5 application shall be considered for processing only as of the
6 date when the application is complete and received by the
7 Commission. Applicants may be required to furnish the
8 institution at which they are enrolled with a copy of their
9 high school transcripts, any other documentation verifying
10 high school graduation, or a copy of their State of Illinois
11 High School Diploma.

12 (h) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,
13 payment of any ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship awarded under this
14 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship
15 funds distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be
16 paid to the institution and used only for payment of the
17 tuition and fee and room and board expenses incurred by the
18 student in connection with his or her attendance at a
19 qualified Illinois institution of higher learning. Any
20 ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship awarded under this Section shall
21 be applicable to 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment
22 within a regular academic year. If a recipient ~~qualified~~
23 ~~student~~ withdraws from enrollment prior to completion of the
24 first semester or quarter for which the ~~minority~~ teacher
25 scholarship is applicable, the school shall refund to the
26 Commission the full amount of the ~~minority~~ teacher

1 scholarship.

2 (i) The Commission shall administer the ~~minority~~ teacher
3 scholarship ~~and~~ program established by this Section ~~and shall~~
4 ~~make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this~~
5 ~~Section for its effective implementation.~~ The Commission shall
6 make information available on its website regarding school
7 districts that meet the criteria set forth in the definition
8 of a qualified student under subsection (a).

9 (j) When an appropriation to the Commission for a given
10 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all
11 qualified students, the Commission shall allocate the
12 appropriation in accordance with this subsection. If funds are
13 insufficient to provide all qualified students with a
14 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission
15 shall allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal
16 year to qualified students who submit a timely complete
17 application form on or before a date specified by the
18 Commission based on the following order of priority:

19 (1) To students who received a scholarship under this
20 Section in the prior academic year and who remain eligible
21 for a ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship under this Section.

22 (2) ~~To Except as otherwise provided in subsection (k),~~
23 ~~to~~ students who demonstrate the most financial need, as
24 determined by the Commission.

25 (3) To students with the earliest date of received
26 completed applications.

1 (4) To students enrolled at or above the junior level.

2 (k) ~~Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subsection (j), at~~
3 ~~least 35% of the funds appropriated for scholarships awarded~~
4 ~~under this Section in each fiscal year shall be reserved for~~
5 ~~qualified male minority applicants, with priority being given~~
6 ~~to qualified Black male applicants beginning with fiscal year~~
7 ~~2023. If the Commission does not receive enough applications~~
8 ~~from qualified male minorities on or before January 1 of each~~
9 ~~fiscal year to award 35% of the funds appropriated for these~~
10 ~~scholarships to qualified male minority applicants, then the~~
11 ~~Commission may award a portion of the reserved funds to~~
12 ~~qualified female minority applicants in accordance with~~
13 ~~subsection (j).~~

14 If Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$2,850,000
15 but less than \$4,200,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal
16 year for scholarships awarded under this Section, then at
17 least 10% of the funds appropriated shall be reserved for
18 qualified bilingual ~~minority~~ applicants, with priority being
19 given to qualified bilingual ~~minority~~ applicants who are
20 enrolled in an educator preparation program with a
21 concentration in bilingual, bicultural education. If Beginning
22 ~~with fiscal year 2023,~~ if at least \$4,200,000 is appropriated
23 in a given fiscal year for the ~~Minority~~ Teachers of Illinois
24 scholarship program, then at least 30% of the funds
25 appropriated shall be reserved for qualified bilingual
26 ~~minority~~ applicants, with priority being given to qualified

1 bilingual ~~minority~~ applicants who are enrolled in an educator
2 preparation program with a concentration in bilingual,
3 bicultural education. ~~If Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if~~
4 at least \$2,850,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal year for
5 scholarships awarded under this Section but the Commission
6 does not receive enough applications from qualified bilingual
7 minority applicants on or before January 1 of that fiscal year
8 to award at least 10% of the funds appropriated to qualified
9 bilingual ~~minority~~ applicants, then the Commission may, in its
10 discretion, award a portion of the reserved funds to other
11 qualified students in accordance with subsection (j).

12 (1) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
13 academic year, each recipient of a ~~minority~~ teacher
14 scholarship awarded under this Section shall be required by
15 the Commission to sign and submit a teaching agreement or
16 promissory note to the Commission ~~an agreement~~ under which the
17 recipient pledges that, within the one-year period following
18 the termination of the program for which the recipient was
19 awarded a ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship, the recipient (i)
20 shall begin teaching for a period of not less than one year for
21 each year of scholarship assistance he or she was awarded
22 under this Section and shall teach on a continuous basis for
23 the required period of time; (ii) shall fulfill this teaching
24 obligation at a ~~nonprofit Illinois public, private, or~~
25 ~~parochial preschool, elementary school, or secondary school~~
26 district in this State that had a 3-year average teacher

1 vacancy rate at or above the 3-year statewide average teacher
2 vacancy rate, excluding public school districts that had zero
3 vacancies, in any school year among the most recent 3 school
4 years for which data is available from the State Board of
5 Education or a public school district in this State in which
6 the number of teacher vacancies in the district was at or above
7 the statewide average number of teacher vacancies, excluding
8 public school districts that had zero vacancies, in any school
9 year among the most recent 3 school years for which data is
10 available from the State Board of Education ~~at which no less~~
11 ~~than 30% of the enrolled students are minority students~~ in the
12 year during which the recipient begins teaching at the school
13 or may instead, if the recipient received a scholarship as a
14 qualified bilingual ~~minority~~ applicant, fulfill this teaching
15 obligation in a program in transitional bilingual education
16 pursuant to Article 14C of the School Code or in a school in
17 which 20 or more English learner students in the same language
18 classification are enrolled; and (iii) shall, upon request by
19 the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence that he
20 or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching
21 agreement provided for in this subsection. Recipients of a
22 teacher scholarship under this Section are also required to
23 provide the Commission with evidence of compliance with
24 program requirements, including, but not limited to annual
25 follow-up questionnaires. Recipients of a teacher scholarship
26 under this Section must also promise to use the proceeds of the

1 scholarship for educational expenses.

2 (l-5) If, prior to the 2025-2026 academic year, an
3 individual received a scholarship under this Section and
4 signed an agreement pledging to teach at a school meeting
5 specified criteria and that individual receives a subsequent
6 scholarship under this Section on or after the effective date
7 of this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly, then
8 that recipient may complete his or her entire teaching
9 obligation at a school meeting the criteria described in
10 subsection (l) of this Section and the Commission shall
11 consider such employment to satisfy the terms of that
12 recipient's agreement to teach signed before the effective
13 date of this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly.

14 (m) If a recipient of a ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship
15 awarded under this Section fails to fulfill the teaching
16 obligation set forth in subsection (l) of this Section, the
17 scholarship converts to a loan. The repayment period shall be
18 completed within 10 years after the scholarship converts to a
19 loan.

20 The 10-year period may be extended if the recipient (i)
21 serves, for not more than 3 years, as a member of the United
22 States Armed Forces; (ii) is temporarily disabled, for not
23 more than 3 years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a
24 licensed physician; (iii) is seeking and unable to find
25 full-time employment, for one continuous period not to exceed
26 2 years, and is able to provide evidence of that fact; (iv)

1 withdraws from a course of study leading to licensure as a
2 teacher but is enrolled full time in another academic
3 discipline; or (v) is pursuing a graduate course of study and
4 is enrolled on a full-time basis for one continuous period of
5 time not to exceed 3 years. During the time a recipient
6 qualifies for any extensions, the recipient is not required to
7 make payments and interest does not accrue.

8 The recipient shall enter repayment status on the earliest
9 of the following: the first day of the first calendar month
10 after the recipient has ceased to pursue a course of study
11 leading to licensure as a teacher at the preschool,
12 elementary, or secondary level, but not before 6 months have
13 elapsed after the cessation of at least half-time enrollment
14 in such a course of study; the date the recipient informs the
15 Commission that the recipient does not plan to fulfill the
16 teaching obligation; or the day after the latest date upon
17 which the recipient must have begun teaching after completing
18 the postsecondary education for which the scholarship was
19 awarded.

20 The ~~the~~ Commission shall require the recipient to repay
21 the amount of the scholarships received, prorated according to
22 the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, at an
23 annual ~~a~~ rate of interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable,
24 reasonable collection fees. If a recipient who enters into
25 repayment under this subsection (m) subsequently, within 5
26 years of entering repayment, begins to teach at a school

1 meeting the description under subsection (l) of this Section,
2 the Commission may reduce the amount owed by the recipient in
3 proportion to the amount of the teaching obligation completed.
4 ~~The Commission is authorized to establish rules relating to~~
5 ~~its collection activities for repayment of scholarships under~~
6 ~~this Section.~~ All repayments collected under this Section
7 shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller for deposit into
8 the State's General Revenue Fund.

9 A recipient is not required to repay the amount of the
10 scholarship received if the recipient becomes permanently
11 totally disabled, as established by the sworn affidavit of a
12 qualified physician, or if the recipient's representative
13 provides the Commission with a death certificate or other
14 evidence that the recipient has died.

15 (n) A recipient of a ~~minority~~ teacher scholarship shall
16 not be considered in violation of the agreement entered into
17 pursuant to subsection (l) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a
18 full time basis as a graduate student in a course of study
19 related to the field of teaching at a qualified Illinois
20 institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not in excess
21 of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the United
22 States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total disability
23 for a period of time not to exceed 3 years as established by
24 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) is seeking
25 full-time employment for one continuous period not to exceed 2
26 years and is unable to find full time employment as a teacher

1 at ~~a an Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or~~
2 ~~elementary or secondary~~ school district in this State that
3 satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection (l) of this
4 Section and is able to provide evidence of that fact; (v)
5 becomes a person with a permanent total disability as
6 established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (vi)
7 is taking additional courses, on at least a half-time basis,
8 needed to obtain licensure as a teacher in Illinois; or (vii)
9 is fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other
10 programs administered by the Commission and cannot
11 concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a period of
12 time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.

13 (o) Scholarship recipients under this Section who withdraw
14 from a program of teacher education but remain enrolled in
15 school to continue their postsecondary studies in another
16 academic discipline shall not be required to commence
17 repayment of their ~~Minority~~ Teachers of Illinois scholarship
18 so long as they remain enrolled in school on a full-time basis
19 or if they can document for the Commission special
20 circumstances that warrant extension of repayment.

21 (o-5) The Commission may not require repayment of any
22 Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship from any recipient
23 who:

24 (1) received that scholarship during the 2024-2025
25 academic year;

26 (2) would have remained eligible for the Minority

1 Teachers of Illinois scholarship if it remained in effect
2 for the 2025-2026 academic year;

3 (3) does not meet the definition of a qualified
4 student under the Teachers of Illinois scholarship program
5 established by this amendatory Act of the 104th General
6 Assembly; and

7 (4) does not complete the educator preparation program
8 in which the recipient was enrolled when receiving the
9 Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship.

10 (p) The State Board of Education shall furnish all
11 appropriate data referenced within the definition of a
12 qualified student under subsection (a) on a timely basis to
13 the Commission. ~~If the Minority Teachers of Illinois~~
14 ~~scholarship program does not expend at least 90% of the amount~~
15 ~~appropriated for the program in a given fiscal year for 3~~
16 ~~consecutive fiscal years and the Commission does not receive~~
17 ~~enough applications from the groups identified in subsection~~
18 ~~(k) on or before January 1 in each of those fiscal years to~~
19 ~~meet the percentage reserved for those groups under subsection~~
20 ~~(k), then up to 3% of amount appropriated for the program for~~
21 ~~each of next 3 fiscal years shall be allocated to increasing~~
22 ~~awareness of the program and for the recruitment of Black male~~
23 ~~applicants. The Commission shall make a recommendation to the~~
24 ~~General Assembly by January 1 of the year immediately~~
25 ~~following the end of that third fiscal year regarding whether~~
26 ~~the amount allocated to increasing awareness and recruitment~~

1 ~~should continue.~~

2 (q) Each qualified Illinois institution of higher learning
3 that receives funds from the ~~Minority~~ Teachers of Illinois
4 scholarship program ~~shall host an annual information session~~
5 ~~at the institution about the program for teacher candidates of~~
6 ~~color in accordance with rules adopted by the Commission.~~
7 ~~Additionally, the institution~~ shall ensure that each
8 scholarship recipient enrolled at the institution meets with
9 an academic advisor at least once per academic year to
10 facilitate on-time completion of the recipient's educator
11 preparation program. Institutions shall also submit
12 eligibility information for qualified students in sufficient
13 time for the Commission to make award announcements.

14 Teacher scholarship awards under this Section shall be
15 paid directly to the approved institution of record that
16 certifies to the Commission that the applicant is an eligible
17 recipient. The Commission shall annually establish priority
18 claim dates for the submission of payment requests and inform
19 institutions of the required priority dates. Late payment
20 requests shall result in the delayed processing of payments.
21 Payment requests shall be processed in the sequence of receipt
22 by the Commission and as funds are available. Institutions may
23 submit their payment requests beginning 10 days prior to the
24 start of classes for the term for which payment is being
25 requested.

26 The Commission shall disburse scholarship funds in 2 or 3

1 installments, depending on the number of terms financed by the
2 scholarship, except that multiple disbursements are not
3 required in cases in which the applicant's eligibility is not
4 determined until the final term of the regular academic year
5 for which the scholarship is being awarded or if a student is
6 attending only one term and the maximum award does not exceed
7 the student's cost of attendance.

8 Funds shall be remitted by the Commission to institutions
9 on behalf of recipients. Upon receipt of scholarship funds,
10 the institution shall verify the recipient's enrollment status
11 for the term for which the award was intended. If enrolled, the
12 institution may credit the scholarship funds to the
13 recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance
14 of the disbursement shall be released to the recipient. Upon
15 receipt of the scholarship funds, if the recipient has
16 withdrawn from enrollment for the terms for which the award
17 was intended, the institution shall return the amount of the
18 scholarship payment to the Commission.

19 (r) The changes made to this Section by this amendatory
20 Act of the 104th General Assembly shall first apply beginning
21 with awards made for the 2025-2026 academic year. ~~The changes~~
22 made to this Section by Public Act 101-654 will first take
23 effect with awards made for the 2022-2023 academic year.

24 (Source: P.A. 102-465, eff. 1-1-22; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22;
25 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23; 103-448, eff. 8-4-23; revised 7-19-24.)

1 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are
2 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law."