

SB1371



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1371

Introduced 1/29/2025, by Sen. Chapin Rose

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 305/8	from Ch. 144, par. 29
110 ILCS 520/8e	from Ch. 144, par. 658e
110 ILCS 660/5-85	
110 ILCS 665/10-85	
110 ILCS 670/15-85	
110 ILCS 675/20-85	
110 ILCS 680/25-85	
110 ILCS 685/30-85	
110 ILCS 690/35-85	

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. Provides that if a public university has a law school, medical school, or nursing program, the governing board of the university shall establish an admissions process in which 25% of the students admitted to the law school, medical school, or nursing program shall be rural students; defines "rural student". Provides that the governing board shall require each of these rural students to agree to return to the county where the student's primary residence was located for a period of 3 years after graduation from the law school, medical school, or nursing program. Effective July 1, 2025.

LRB104 04097 LNS 14121 b

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 5. The University of Illinois Act is amended by
5 changing Section 8 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 305/8) (from Ch. 144, par. 29)

7 Sec. 8. Admissions.

8 (a) (Blank).

9 (b) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
10 of the departments or colleges of the University unless such
11 student also has satisfactorily completed:

12 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
13 the following 5 categories:

14 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
15 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
16 years may be collegiate level instruction;

17 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
18 and government);

19 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
20 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
21 fundamentals of computer programming);

22 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
23 agricultural sciences); and

(E) 2 years of electives in foreign language (which may be deemed to include American Sign Language), music, career and technical education, agricultural education, or art;

(2) except that institutions may admit individual applicants if the institution determines through assessment or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and technical education courses and courses taken in a charter school established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the high school courses required for admission. The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois shall not discriminate in the University's admissions process against an applicant for admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a charter school established under Article 27A of the School Code. Institutions may also admit 1) applicants who did not have an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory curriculum in high school, and 2) educationally disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal organized special assistance programs that are tailored to the needs of such students, providing that in either case, the institution incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum courses or other

1 academic activities that compensate for course
2 deficiencies; and

3 (3) except that up to 3 of the 15 units of coursework
4 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
5 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
6 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
7 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
8 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

9 (c) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
10 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
11 coursework required by subsection (b).

12 (d) A student who has graduated from high school and has
13 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
14 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
15 test as a prerequisite to admission.

16 (e) The Board of Trustees shall establish an admissions
17 process in which honorably discharged veterans are permitted
18 to submit an application for admission to the University as a
19 freshman student enrolling in the spring semester if the
20 veteran was on active duty during the fall semester. The
21 University may request that the Department of Veterans'
22 Affairs confirm the status of an applicant as an honorably
23 discharged veteran who was on active duty during the fall
24 semester.

25 (f) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
26 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring

1 from a public community college in this State with the
2 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
3 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
4 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
5 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
6 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
7 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
8 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
9 community college in this State. The University shall post
10 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
11 Internet website.

12 (g) For purposes of this subsection (g), "rural student"
13 means a student residing in this State whose primary residence
14 is not in Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, Lake
15 County, McHenry County, or Will County.

16 If the University has a law school, medical school, or
17 nursing program, the Board of Trustees shall establish an
18 admissions process in which 25% of the students admitted to
19 the law school, medical school, or nursing program shall be
20 rural students. The Board of Trustees shall require each of
21 these rural students to agree to return to the county where the
22 student's primary residence was located for a period of 3
23 years after graduation from the law school, medical school, or
24 nursing program.

25 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
26 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

1 Section 10. The Southern Illinois University Management
2 Act is amended by changing Section 8e as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 520/8e) (from Ch. 144, par. 658e)

4 Sec. 8e. Admissions.

5 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
6 of the departments or colleges of the University unless such
7 student also has satisfactorily completed:

8 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
9 the following 5 categories:

10 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
11 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
12 years may be collegiate level instruction;

13 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
14 and government);

15 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
16 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
17 fundamentals of computer programming);

18 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
19 agricultural sciences); and

20 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
21 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
22 Language), music, career and technical education,
23 agricultural education, or art;

24 (2) except that institutions may admit individual

1 applicants if the institution determines through
2 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
3 outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and
4 technical education courses and courses taken in a charter
5 school established under Article 27A of the School Code,
6 that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills
7 substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills
8 expected to be acquired in the high school courses
9 required for admission. The Board of Trustees of Southern
10 Illinois University shall not discriminate in the
11 University's admissions process against an applicant for
12 admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a
13 charter school established under Article 27A of the School
14 Code. Institutions may also admit 1) applicants who did
15 not have an opportunity to complete the minimum college
16 preparatory curriculum in high school, and 2)
17 educationally disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to
18 the formal organized special assistance programs that are
19 tailored to the needs of such students, providing that in
20 either case, the institution incorporates in the
21 applicant's baccalaureate curriculum courses or other
22 academic activities that compensate for course
23 deficiencies; and

24 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
25 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
26 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from

1 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
2 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
3 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

4 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
5 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
6 coursework required by subsection (a).

7 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
8 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
9 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
10 test as a prerequisite to admission.

11 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
12 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
13 application for admission to the University as a freshman
14 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
15 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
16 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
17 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
18 was on active duty during the fall semester.

19 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
20 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
21 from a public community college in this State with the
22 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
23 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
24 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
25 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
26 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the

1 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
2 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
3 community college in this State. The University shall post
4 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
5 Internet website.

6 (f) For purposes of this subsection (f), "rural student"
7 means a student residing in this State whose primary residence
8 is not in Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, Lake
9 County, McHenry County, or Will County.

10 If the University has a law school, medical school, or
11 nursing program, the Board shall establish an admissions
12 process in which 25% of the students admitted to the law
13 school, medical school, or nursing program shall be rural
14 students. The Board shall require each of these rural students
15 to agree to return to the county where the student's primary
16 residence was located for a period of 3 years after graduation
17 from the law school, medical school, or nursing program.

18 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
19 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

20 Section 15. The Chicago State University Law is amended by
21 changing Section 5-85 as follows:

22 (110 ILCS 660/5-85)

23 Sec. 5-85. Admissions.

24 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any

1 of the departments or colleges of the Chicago State University
2 unless such student also has satisfactorily completed:

3 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
4 the following 5 categories:

5 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
6 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
7 years may be collegiate level instruction;

8 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
9 and government);

10 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
11 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
12 fundamentals of computer programming);

13 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
14 agricultural sciences); and

15 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
16 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
17 Language), music, career and technical education,
18 agricultural education, or art;

19 (2) except that Chicago State University may admit
20 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
21 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
22 coursework taken, including career and technical education
23 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
24 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
25 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
26 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the

1 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
2 Trustees of Chicago State University shall not
3 discriminate in the University's admissions process
4 against an applicant for admission because of the
5 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
6 under Article 27A of the School Code. Chicago State
7 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
8 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
9 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
10 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
11 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
12 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
13 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
14 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
15 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

16 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
17 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
18 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
19 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
20 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
21 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

22 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
23 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
24 coursework required by subsection (a).

25 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
26 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or

1 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
2 test as a prerequisite to admission.

3 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
4 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
5 application for admission to the University as a freshman
6 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
7 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
8 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
9 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
10 was on active duty during the fall semester.

11 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
12 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
13 from a public community college in this State with the
14 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
15 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
16 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
17 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
18 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
19 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
20 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
21 community college in this State. The University shall post
22 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
23 Internet website.

24 (f) For purposes of this subsection (f), "rural student"
25 means a student residing in this State whose primary residence
26 is not in Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, Lake

1 County, McHenry County, or Will County.

2 If the University has a law school, medical school, or
3 nursing program, the Board shall establish an admissions
4 process in which 25% of the students admitted to the law
5 school, medical school, or nursing program shall be rural
6 students. The Board shall require each of these rural students
7 to agree to return to the county where the student's primary
8 residence was located for a period of 3 years after graduation
9 from the law school, medical school, or nursing program.

10 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
11 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

12 Section 20. The Eastern Illinois University Law is amended
13 by changing Section 10-85 as follows:

14 (110 ILCS 665/10-85)

15 Sec. 10-85. Admissions.

16 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
17 of the departments or colleges of the Eastern Illinois
18 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
19 completed:

20 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
21 the following 5 categories:

22 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
23 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
24 years may be collegiate level instruction;

(B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history and government);

(C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or fundamentals of computer programming);

(D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or agricultural sciences); and

(E) 2 years of electives in foreign language (which may be deemed to include American Sign Language), music, career and technical education, agricultural education, or art;

(2) except that Eastern Illinois University may admit individual applicants if it determines through assessment or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and technical education courses and courses taken in a charter school established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the high school courses required for admission. The Board of Trustees of Eastern Illinois University shall not discriminate in the University's admissions process against an applicant for admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a charter school established under Article 27A of the School Code. Eastern Illinois University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have

1 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
2 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
3 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
4 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
5 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
6 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
7 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
8 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

9 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
10 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
11 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
12 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
13 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
14 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

15 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
16 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
17 coursework required by subsection (a).

18 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
19 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
20 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
21 test as a prerequisite to admission.

22 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
23 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
24 application for admission to the University as a freshman
25 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
26 active duty during the fall semester. The University may

1 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
2 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
3 was on active duty during the fall semester.

4 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
5 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
6 from a public community college in this State with the
7 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
8 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
9 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
10 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
11 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
12 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
13 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
14 community college in this State. The University shall post
15 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
16 Internet website.

17 (f) For purposes of this subsection (f), "rural student"
18 means a student residing in this State whose primary residence
19 is not in Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, Lake
20 County, McHenry County, or Will County.

21 If the University has a law school, medical school, or
22 nursing program, the Board shall establish an admissions
23 process in which 25% of the students admitted to the law
24 school, medical school, or nursing program shall be rural
25 students. The Board shall require each of these rural students
26 to agree to return to the county where the student's primary

1 residence was located for a period of 3 years after graduation
2 from the law school, medical school, or nursing program.

3 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
4 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

5 Section 25. The Governors State University Law is amended
6 by changing Section 15-85 as follows:

7 (110 ILCS 670/15-85)

8 Sec. 15-85. Admissions.

9 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
10 of the departments or colleges of the Governors State
11 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
12 completed:

13 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
14 the following 5 categories:

15 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
16 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
17 years may be collegiate level instruction;

18 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
19 and government);

20 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
21 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
22 fundamentals of computer programming);

23 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
24 agricultural sciences); and

(E) 2 years of electives in foreign language (which may be deemed to include American Sign Language), music, career and technical education, agricultural education, or art;

(2) except that Governors State University may admit individual applicants if it determines through assessment or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and technical education courses and courses taken in a charter school established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the high school courses required for admission. The Board of Trustees of Governors State University shall not discriminate in the University's admissions process against an applicant for admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a charter school established under Article 27A of the School Code. Governors State University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal organized special assistance programs that are tailored to the needs of such students, providing that in either case, the institution incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic

1 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

2 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
3 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
4 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
5 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
6 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
7 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

8 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
9 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
10 coursework required by subsection (a).

11 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
12 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
13 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
14 test as a prerequisite to admission.

15 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
16 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
17 application for admission to the University as a freshman
18 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
19 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
20 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
21 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
22 was on active duty during the fall semester.

23 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
24 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
25 from a public community college in this State with the
26 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee

1 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
2 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
3 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
4 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
5 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
6 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
7 community college in this State. The University shall post
8 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
9 Internet website.

10 (f) For purposes of this subsection (f), "rural student"
11 means a student residing in this State whose primary residence
12 is not in Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, Lake
13 County, McHenry County, or Will County.

14 If the University has a law school, medical school, or
15 nursing program, the Board shall establish an admissions
16 process in which 25% of the students admitted to the law
17 school, medical school, or nursing program shall be rural
18 students. The Board shall require each of these rural students
19 to agree to return to the county where the student's primary
20 residence was located for a period of 3 years after graduation
21 from the law school, medical school, or nursing program.

22 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
23 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

24 Section 30. The Illinois State University Law is amended
25 by changing Section 20-85 as follows:

1 (110 ILCS 675/20-85)

2 Sec. 20-85. Admissions.

3 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
4 of the departments or colleges of the Illinois State
5 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
6 completed:

7 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
8 the following 5 categories:

9 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
10 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
11 years may be collegiate level instruction;

12 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
13 and government);

14 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
15 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
16 fundamentals of computer programming);

17 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
18 agricultural sciences); and

19 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
20 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
21 Language), music, career and technical education,
22 agricultural education, or art;

23 (2) except that Illinois State University may admit
24 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
25 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the

1 coursework taken, including career and technical education
2 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
3 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
4 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
5 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
6 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
7 Trustees of Illinois State University shall not
8 discriminate in the University's admissions process
9 against an applicant for admission because of the
10 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
11 under Article 27A of the School Code. Illinois State
12 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
13 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
14 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
15 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
16 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
17 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
18 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
19 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
20 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

21 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
22 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
23 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
24 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
25 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
26 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

(b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall recognize their obligation to their students to offer the coursework required by subsection (a).

(c) A student who has graduated from high school and has scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency test as a prerequisite to admission.

(d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an application for admission to the University as a freshman student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on active duty during the fall semester. The University may request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who was on active duty during the fall semester.

(e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the University shall provide all Illinois students transferring from a public community college in this State with the University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the University's transfer admissions process. The University is encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for low-income Illinois students transferring from a public community college in this State. The University shall post

1 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
2 Internet website.

3 (f) For purposes of this subsection (f), "rural student"
4 means a student residing in this State whose primary residence
5 is not in Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, Lake
6 County, McHenry County, or Will County.

7 If the University has a law school, medical school, or
8 nursing program, the Board shall establish an admissions
9 process in which 25% of the students admitted to the law
10 school, medical school, or nursing program shall be rural
11 students. The Board shall require each of these rural students
12 to agree to return to the county where the student's primary
13 residence was located for a period of 3 years after graduation
14 from the law school, medical school, or nursing program.

15 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
16 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

17 Section 35. The Northeastern Illinois University Law is
18 amended by changing Section 25-85 as follows:

19 (110 ILCS 680/25-85)

20 Sec. 25-85. Admissions.

21 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
22 of the departments or colleges of the Northeastern Illinois
23 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
24 completed:

(1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from the following 5 categories:

(A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and oral communications and literature), of which up to 2 years may be collegiate level instruction;

(B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history and government);

(C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or fundamentals of computer programming);

(D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or agricultural sciences); and

(E) 2 years of electives in foreign language (which may be deemed to include American Sign Language), music, career and technical education, agricultural education, or art;

(2) except that Northeastern Illinois University may admit individual applicants if it determines through assessment or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and technical education courses and courses taken in a charter school established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the high school courses required for admission. The Board of Trustees of

1 Northeastern Illinois University shall not discriminate in
2 the University's admissions process against an applicant
3 for admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a
4 charter school established under Article 27A of the School
5 Code. Northeastern Illinois University may also admit (i)
6 applicants who did not have an opportunity to complete the
7 minimum college preparatory curriculum in high school, and
8 (ii) educationally disadvantaged applicants who are
9 admitted to the formal organized special assistance
10 programs that are tailored to the needs of such students,
11 providing that in either case, the institution
12 incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum
13 courses or other academic activities that compensate for
14 course deficiencies; and

15 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
16 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
17 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
18 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
19 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
20 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

21 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
22 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
23 coursework required by subsection (a).

24 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
25 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
26 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency

1 test as a prerequisite to admission.

2 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
3 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
4 application for admission to the University as a freshman
5 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
6 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
7 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
8 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
9 was on active duty during the fall semester.

10 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
11 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
12 from a public community college in this State with the
13 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
14 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
15 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
16 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
17 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
18 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
19 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
20 community college in this State. The University shall post
21 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
22 Internet website.

23 (f) For purposes of this subsection (f), "rural student"
24 means a student residing in this State whose primary residence
25 is not in Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, Lake
26 County, McHenry County, or Will County.

1 If the University has a law school, medical school, or
2 nursing program, the Board shall establish an admissions
3 process in which 25% of the students admitted to the law
4 school, medical school, or nursing program shall be rural
5 students. The Board shall require each of these rural students
6 to agree to return to the county where the student's primary
7 residence was located for a period of 3 years after graduation
8 from the law school, medical school, or nursing program.

9 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
10 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

11 Section 40. The Northern Illinois University Law is
12 amended by changing Section 30-85 as follows:

13 (110 ILCS 685/30-85)

14 Sec. 30-85. Admissions.

15 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
16 of the departments or colleges of the Northern Illinois
17 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
18 completed:

19 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
20 the following 5 categories:

21 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
22 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
23 years may be collegiate level instruction;

24 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history

1 and government);

2 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
3 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
4 fundamentals of computer programming);

5 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
6 agricultural sciences); and

7 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
8 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
9 Language), music, career and technical education,
10 agricultural education, or art;

11 (2) except that Northern Illinois University may admit
12 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
13 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
14 coursework taken, including career and technical education
15 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
16 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
17 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
18 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
19 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
20 Trustees of Northern Illinois University shall not
21 discriminate in the University's admissions process
22 against an applicant for admission because of the
23 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
24 under Article 27A of the School Code. Northern Illinois
25 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
26 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory

1 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
2 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
3 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
4 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
5 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
6 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
7 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

8 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
9 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
10 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
11 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
12 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
13 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

14 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
15 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
16 coursework required by subsection (a).

17 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
18 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
19 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
20 test as a prerequisite to admission.

21 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
22 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
23 application for admission to the University as a freshman
24 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
25 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
26 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the

1 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
2 was on active duty during the fall semester.

3 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
4 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
5 from a public community college in this State with the
6 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
7 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
8 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
9 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
10 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
11 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
12 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
13 community college in this State. The University shall post
14 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
15 Internet website.

16 (f) For purposes of this subsection (f), "rural student"
17 means a student residing in this State whose primary residence
18 is not in Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, Lake
19 County, McHenry County, or Will County.

20 If the University has a law school, medical school, or
21 nursing program, the Board shall establish an admissions
22 process in which 25% of the students admitted to the law
23 school, medical school, or nursing program shall be rural
24 students. The Board shall require each of these rural students
25 to agree to return to the county where the student's primary
26 residence was located for a period of 3 years after graduation

1 from the law school, medical school, or nursing program.

2 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
3 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

4 Section 45. The Western Illinois University Law is amended
5 by changing Section 35-85 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 690/35-85)

7 Sec. 35-85. Admissions.

8 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
9 of the departments or colleges of the Western Illinois
10 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
11 completed:

12 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
13 the following 5 categories:

14 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
15 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
16 years may be collegiate level instruction;

17 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
18 and government);

19 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
20 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
21 fundamentals of computer programming);

22 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
23 agricultural sciences); and

24 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language

(which may be deemed to include American Sign Language), music, career and technical education, agricultural education, or art;

(2) except that Western Illinois University may admit individual applicants if it determines through assessment or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and technical education courses and courses taken in a charter school established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the high school courses required for admission. The Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University shall not discriminate in the University's admissions process against an applicant for admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a charter school established under Article 27A of the School Code. Western Illinois University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal organized special assistance programs that are tailored to the needs of such students, providing that in either case, the institution incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

(3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

(b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall recognize their obligation to their students to offer the coursework required by subsection (a).

(c) A student who has graduated from high school and has scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency test as a prerequisite to admission.

(d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an application for admission to the University as a freshman student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on active duty during the fall semester. The University may request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who was on active duty during the fall semester.

(e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 ~~20245-2026~~ academic year, the University shall provide all Illinois students transferring from a public community college in this State with the University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee waiver policy and, if such a policy exists,

1 any application or forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as
2 part of the University's transfer admissions process. The
3 University is encouraged to develop a policy to automatically
4 waive the undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
5 for low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
6 community college in this State. The University shall post
7 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
8 Internet website.

9 (f) For purposes of this subsection (f), "rural student"
10 means a student residing in this State whose primary residence
11 is not in Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, Lake
12 County, McHenry County, or Will County.

13 If the University has a law school, medical school, or
14 nursing program, the Board shall establish an admissions
15 process in which 25% of the students admitted to the law
16 school, medical school, or nursing program shall be rural
17 students. The Board shall require each of these rural students
18 to agree to return to the county where the student's primary
19 residence was located for a period of 3 years after graduation
20 from the law school, medical school, or nursing program.

21 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
22 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
24 2025.