



## 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

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

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

5           (2) except that institutions may admit individual  
6           applicants if the institution determines through  
7           assessment or through evaluation based on learning  
8           outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and  
9           technical education courses and courses taken in a charter  
10          school established under Article 27A of the School Code,  
11          that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills  
12          substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills  
13          expected to be acquired in the high school courses  
14          required for admission. The Board of Trustees of the  
15          University of Illinois shall not discriminate in the  
16          University's admissions process against an applicant for  
17          admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a  
18          charter school established under Article 27A of the School  
19          Code. Institutions may also admit 1) applicants who did  
20          not have an opportunity to complete the minimum college  
21          preparatory curriculum in high school, and 2)  
22          educationally disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to  
23          the formal organized special assistance programs that are  
24          tailored to the needs of such students, providing that in  
25          either case, the institution incorporates in the  
26          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;

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

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

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

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

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

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

5           (2) except that Governors State University may admit  
6           individual applicants if it determines through assessment  
7           or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the  
8           coursework taken, including career and technical education  
9           courses and courses taken in a charter school established  
10          under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant  
11          demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent  
12          to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the  
13          high school courses required for admission. The Board of  
14          Trustees of Governors State University shall not  
15          discriminate in the University's admissions process  
16          against an applicant for admission because of the  
17          applicant's enrollment in a charter school established  
18          under Article 27A of the School Code. Governors State  
19          University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have  
20          an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory  
21          curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally  
22          disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal  
23          organized special assistance programs that are tailored to  
24          the needs of such students, providing that in either case,  
25          the institution incorporates in the applicant's  
26          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).

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

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

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

16           (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the  
17 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring  
18 from a public community college in this State with the  
19 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee  
20 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or  
21 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the  
22 University's transfer admissions process. The University is  
23 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the  
24 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for  
25 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public  
26 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           (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from  
2           the following 5 categories:

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

22          (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 ~~20245-2026~~ academic year,  
23          the University shall provide all Illinois students  
24          transferring from a public community college in this State  
25          with the University's undergraduate transfer admissions  
26          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.