



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1604

Introduced 2/4/2025, by Sen. Laura Fine

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new  
110 ILCS 205/9.45 new

Amends the State Board of Education Article of the School Code. Provides that, subject to appropriation, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, the State Board of Education shall award competitive grants on an annual basis to school districts and other educational units that have school social work interns to assist those school districts and other educational units in the funding of school social work internships approved by the interns' educator preparation programs by providing stipends. Sets forth the stipend amount. Provides that the State Board of Education shall annually disseminate to school districts and other educational units that have school social work interns a request for applications for grants. Provides that grant applications shall be accepted on an annual basis. Provides that the State Board of Education shall establish procedures for submitting requests for stipends and issuing funds to approved applicants. Provides for prioritizing grants if an appropriation is insufficient to fund all applications for grants. Provides that for any school year in which grants are awarded, the State Board of Education shall produce a report on the awarding of grants, in cooperation with the school districts and educational units that are awarded grants. Sets forth requirements for the report. Provides that the report shall be posted on the State Board of Education's Internet website each school year in which grants are awarded. Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the Board of Higher Education shall establish and administer a grant program to support the field placement of social workers. Provides that the Board shall distribute the funds appropriated for this purpose in the form of grants to public or nonpublic institutions of higher education to expand opportunities for students who are intending to become social workers and to assist students in pursuing social-work related field placements, internships, and other work opportunities. Sets forth other requirements concerning the operation of the grant program. Effective immediately.

LRB104 06939 LNS 16976 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 School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 2-3.206 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.206. Grants for stipends for school social work  
8 internships.

9 (a) As used in this Section, "school social work intern"  
10 means an individual who is enrolled in a program approved by  
11 the State Board of Education for the preparation of school  
12 social workers to qualify for a professional educator license  
13 under Article 21B of this Code with an endorsement in the area  
14 of school social work and who is required to complete a school  
15 social work internship in a school setting as part of the  
16 individual's educator preparation program.

17 (b) Subject to appropriation, beginning with the 2025-2026  
18 school year, the State Board of Education shall award  
19 competitive grants on an annual basis to school districts and  
20 other educational units that have school social work interns  
21 to assist those school districts and other educational units  
22 in the funding of school social work internships approved by  
23 the interns' educator preparation programs by providing

1 stipends. The stipend amount shall equal at least \$15,000 per  
2 year for each intern at a rate of at least \$25 per hour.

3 (c) The State Board of Education shall annually  
4 disseminate to school districts and other educational units  
5 that have school social work interns a request for  
6 applications for grants under this Section. Grant applications  
7 shall be accepted on an annual basis. The State Board of  
8 Education shall establish procedures for submitting requests  
9 for stipends and issuing funds to approved applicants.

10 (d) If the appropriation for grants under this Section for  
11 a given fiscal year is less than the amount required to fund  
12 all applications for grants, the State Board of Education  
13 shall give priority to school districts that have been  
14 designated as Tier 1 or Tier 2 pursuant to paragraph (3) of  
15 subsection (g) of Section 18-8.15 of this Code and that have  
16 applied for grant funds.

17 (e) For any school year in which grants are awarded under  
18 this Section, the State Board of Education shall produce a  
19 report on the awarding of grants, in cooperation with the  
20 school districts and educational units that are awarded  
21 grants. The report shall include a list of the recipients of  
22 the grant awards, the amount of grant funds awarded to each  
23 recipient, and the total amount awarded. The report shall be  
24 posted on the State Board of Education's Internet website each  
25 school year in which grants are awarded.

1 Section 10. The Board of Higher Education Act is amended  
2 by adding Section 9.45 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 205/9.45 new)

4 Sec. 9.45. Grants for social worker field placement.

5 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Board shall establish  
6 and administer a grant program to support the field placement  
7 of social workers.

8 (b) The Board shall distribute the funds appropriated for  
9 the grant program established under this Section in the form  
10 of grants to public or nonpublic institutions of higher  
11 education to expand opportunities for students who are  
12 intending to become social workers and to assist students in  
13 pursuing social-work related field placements, internships,  
14 and other work opportunities.

15 (c) The Board shall ensure that the grant program  
16 established under this Section provides grants to a  
17 representative cross section of students in this State.

18 (d) No grant may be awarded under this Section for any  
19 program of sectarian instruction or for any program designed  
20 to serve a sectarian purpose.

21 (e) The Board may require evaluations, audits, or reports  
22 in relation to the fiscal and academic aspects of any program  
23 for which a grant is awarded under this Section. The Board may  
24 annually submit to the Governor and General Assembly a  
25 budgetary recommendation for grants under this Section.

1           (f) The Board may adopt any rules necessary for the  
2           implementation of this Section.

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