



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2893

Introduced 1/16/2026, by Sen. Sue Rezin

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/35

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act with respect to the monetary award program. Beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year through the 2031-2032 academic year, provides that an applicant who is otherwise eligible for grant assistance under the program may receive grant assistance for an additional academic year after receiving a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours if he or she (i) enrolls in a State-approved educator preparation program and (ii) within 5 years after receiving a Professional Educator License, teaches in this State for a minimum of 3 years. Requires repayment if at any time a person fails to meet the requirements. Effective immediately.

LRB104 18574 LNS 32017 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 Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by changing Section 35 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/35)

7 Sec. 35. Monetary award program.

8 (a) The Commission shall, each year, receive and consider
9 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Subject
10 to a separate appropriation for such purposes, an applicant is
11 eligible for a grant under this Section when the Commission
12 finds that the applicant:

13 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or
14 permanent resident of the United States;

15 (2) is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment in
16 a qualified institution for the purpose of obtaining a
17 degree, certificate, or other credential offered by the
18 institution, as applicable; and

19 (3) in the absence of grant assistance, will be
20 deterred by financial considerations from completing an
21 educational program at the qualified institution of his or
22 her choice.

23 (b) The Commission shall award renewals only upon the

1 student's application and upon the Commission's finding that
2 the applicant:

3 (1) has remained a student in good standing;

4 (2) remains a resident of this State; and

5 (3) is in a financial situation that continues to
6 warrant assistance.

7 (c) All grants shall be applicable only to tuition and
8 necessary fee costs. The Commission shall determine the grant
9 amount for each student, which shall not exceed the smallest
10 of the following amounts:

11 (1) subject to appropriation, \$5,468 for fiscal year
12 2009, \$5,968 for fiscal year 2010, \$6,468 for fiscal year
13 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year
14 2022, \$8,508 for fiscal year 2023, and \$10,896 for fiscal
15 year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, or such lesser
16 amount as the Commission finds to be available, during an
17 academic year;

18 (2) the amount which equals 2 semesters or 3 quarters
19 tuition and other necessary fees required generally by the
20 institution of all full-time undergraduate students; or

21 (3) such amount as the Commission finds to be
22 appropriate in view of the applicant's financial
23 resources.

24 Subject to appropriation, the maximum grant amount for
25 students not subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection (c)
26 must be increased by the same percentage as any increase made

1 by law to the maximum grant amount under subdivision (1) of
2 this subsection (c).

3 "Tuition and other necessary fees" as used in this Section
4 include the customary charge for instruction and use of
5 facilities in general, and the additional fixed fees charged
6 for specified purposes, which are required generally of
7 nongrant recipients for each academic period for which the
8 grant applicant actually enrolls, but do not include fees
9 payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent
10 deposits which are refundable in whole or in part. The
11 Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with this
12 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of
13 tuition and other necessary fees.

14 (d) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, no ~~no~~
15 applicant, including those presently receiving scholarship
16 assistance under this Act, is eligible for monetary award
17 program consideration under this Act after receiving a
18 baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit
19 hours of award payments.

20 (d-3) Beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year through
21 the 2031-2032 academic year, an applicant who is otherwise
22 eligible for grant assistance under this Section may receive
23 grant assistance for an additional academic year after
24 receiving a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135
25 semester credit hours if he or she (i) enrolls in a
26 State-approved educator preparation program and (ii) within 5

1 years after receiving a Professional Educator License, teaches
2 in this State for a minimum of 3 years. If at any time a person
3 fails to meet the requirements of this subsection, he or she
4 must repay the amount of additional assistance received to the
5 Commission, in a manner as determined by the Commission,
6 prorated according to the fraction of the teaching obligation
7 not completed.

8 (d-5) In this subsection (d-5), "renewing applicant" means
9 a student attending an institution of higher learning who
10 received a Monetary Award Program grant during the prior
11 academic year. Beginning with the processing of applications
12 for the 2020-2021 academic year, the Commission shall annually
13 publish a priority deadline date for renewing applicants.
14 Subject to appropriation, a renewing applicant who files by
15 the published priority deadline date shall receive a grant if
16 he or she continues to meet the eligibility requirements under
17 this Section. A renewing applicant's failure to apply by the
18 priority deadline date established under this subsection (d-5)
19 shall not disqualify him or her from receiving a grant if
20 sufficient funding is available to provide awards after that
21 date.

22 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to
23 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with
24 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The
25 Commission shall notify applicants that grant assistance is
26 contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds.

1 (e-5) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is
2 an important purpose of the Monetary Award Program to
3 facilitate access to college both for students who pursue
4 postsecondary education immediately following high school and
5 for those who pursue postsecondary education later in life,
6 particularly Illinoisans who are dislocated workers with
7 financial need and who are seeking to improve their economic
8 position through education. For the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017
9 academic years, the Commission shall give additional and
10 specific consideration to the needs of dislocated workers with
11 the intent of allowing applicants who are dislocated workers
12 an opportunity to secure financial assistance even if applying
13 later than the general pool of applicants. The Commission's
14 consideration shall include, in determining the number of
15 grants to be offered, an estimate of the resources needed to
16 serve dislocated workers who apply after the Commission
17 initially suspends award announcements for the upcoming
18 regular academic year, but prior to the beginning of that
19 academic year. For the purposes of this subsection (e-5), a
20 dislocated worker is defined as in the federal Workforce
21 Innovation and Opportunity Act.

22 (f) (Blank).

23 (g) The Commission shall determine the eligibility of and
24 make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit
25 institutions in accordance with the criteria set forth in this
26 Section. The eligibility of applicants enrolled at such

1 for-profit institutions shall be limited as follows:

2 (1) Beginning with the academic year 1997, only to
3 eligible first-time freshmen and first-time transfer
4 students who have attained an associate degree.

5 (2) Beginning with the academic year 1998, only to
6 eligible freshmen students, transfer students who have
7 attained an associate degree, and students who receive a
8 grant under paragraph (1) for the academic year 1997 and
9 whose grants are being renewed for the academic year 1998.

10 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all
11 eligible students.

12 (h) The Commission may award a grant to an eligible
13 applicant enrolled at an Illinois public institution of higher
14 learning in a program that will culminate in the award of an
15 occupational or career and technical certificate as that term
16 is defined in 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1501.301.

17 (i) The Commission may adopt rules to implement this
18 Section.

19 (Source: P.A. 102-699, eff. 4-19-22; 103-8, eff. 6-7-23.)

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.