HB3211

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB3211

by Rep. Litesa E. Wallace

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/12-4.13b new

Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to identify and flag all college students who are potentially eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Provides that the factors to be used to determine potential SNAP eligibility shall be prescribed by the Department of Human Services by rule, but at a minimum the Department shall consider income information reported on a college student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Requires ISAC to develop a notice available electronically to institutions of higher education that includes, at a minimum, college student SNAP eligibility criteria, the Application for Benefits Eligibility's website address, and the Illinois Hunger Coalition's Hunger Hotline. Requires Illinois institutions of higher education that participate in the Monetary Award Program to provide the notice in writing to all students who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment and are identified by ISAC as potentially SNAP eligible and, if possible, to designate a public benefits liaison or single point person to assist students in taking the necessary steps to obtain public benefits if eligible. Contains provisions concerning: SNAP Employment and Training program requirements; protocols to identify and verify all potential exemptions to an eligibility rule described in a specified federal regulation and to identify and verify a student's participation in educational programs; and other matters. Requires the Department to adopt any rules necessary to implement specified provisions on or before October 1, 2017. Effective immediately.

LRB100 10886 KTG 21121 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1   AN ACT concerning public aid.

2   **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**

3   **represented in the General Assembly:**

4   Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by

5   adding Section 12-4.13b as follows:

6   (305 ILCS 5/12-4.13b new)

7   Sec.   12-4.13b.   College   student   eligibility   for

8   supplemental nutrition assistance benefits.

9   (a)(1) The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)

10   shall   identify   and   flag   all   college   students   who   are

11   potentially   eligible   to   receive   Supplemental   Nutrition

12   Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The factors to be used to

13   determine potential SNAP eligibility shall be prescribed by the

14   Department   of   Human   Services   by   rule,   but   at   a   minimum   the

15   Department   shall   consider   income   information   reported   on   a

16   college student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

17   ISAC   shall   develop   a   notice   available   electronically   to

18   institutions of higher education that includes, at a minimum,

19   college student SNAP eligibility criteria, the Application for

20   Benefits   Eligibility's   website   address,   and   the   Illinois

21   Hunger Coalition's Hunger Hotline.

22   (2)   Illinois   institutions   of   higher   education   that

23   participate in the Monetary Award Program shall provide the

1   notice described in paragraph (1) in writing to all students

2   who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment and are identified

3   by ISAC as potentially SNAP eligible and, if possible, shall

4   designate a public benefits liaison or single point person to

5   assist students in taking the necessary steps to obtain public

6   benefits if eligible.

7   (3) The Illinois Community College Board shall adopt any

8   rules necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection

9   (a) on or before October 1, 2017.

10   (b) For the purposes of Section 273.5(b)(11)(ii) of Title 7

11   of the Code of Federal Regulations, an educational program

12   offered at a community college under the Carl D. Perkins Career

13   and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Public Law

14   109-270) that could be a component of a SNAP Employment and

15   Training (E&T) program, as identified by the Department of

16   Human Services, shall be considered an employment and training

17   program under Section 273.7 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal

18   Regulations, unless prohibited by federal law.

19   (c) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with

20   representatives of the Office of the Chancellor of the City

21   Colleges of Chicago, the Illinois Community College Board,

22   ISAC, the Illinois Workforce Investment Board, and advocates

23   for students and SNAP recipients, shall establish a protocol to

24   identify and verify all potential exemptions to the eligibility

25   rule described in Section 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of

26   Federal Regulations, and to identify and verify a student's

1   participation in educational programs, including, but not

2   limited to, self-initiated placements, that would exempt a

3   student from the eligibility rule described in Section 273.5(a)

4   of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. To the extent

5   possible, this consultation shall take place through existing

6   workgroups convened by the Department of Human Services.

7   (d) If the United States Department of Agriculture requires

8   federal approval of the exemption designation established

9   pursuant to subsection (b) and the protocol established

10 pursuant to subsection (c), the Department of Human Services

11 shall seek and obtain that approval before publishing the

12 guidance or regulation required by subsection (f).

13   (e)(1) This Section does not require the Department of

14 Human Services to offer a particular component, support

15 services, or workers' compensation to a college student found

16 eligible for an exemption pursuant to this Section.

17   (2) This Section does not restrict or require the use of

18 federal funds for the financing of SNAP E&T programs.

19   (3) This Section does not require an institution of higher

20 education to verify eligibility for SNAP.

21   (f) The Department of Human Services shall adopt any rules

22 necessary to implement the provisions of subsections (b), (c),

23 (d), and (e) on or before October 1, 2017.

24   Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

25 becoming law.