

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended
5 by changing Section 8 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/8) (from Ch. 23, par. 5008)

7 Sec. 8. Scholarships and fee waivers; tuition waiver.

8 (a) Each year the Department shall select a minimum of 53
9 students (at least 4 of whom shall be children of veterans) to
10 receive scholarships and fee waivers which will enable them to
11 attend and complete their post-secondary education at a
12 community college, university, or college. Youth shall be
13 selected from among the youth for whom the Department has
14 court-ordered legal responsibility, youth who aged out of care
15 at age 18 or older, or youth formerly under care who have been
16 adopted or who have been placed in private guardianship.
17 Recipients must have earned a high school diploma from an
18 accredited institution or a high school equivalency
19 certificate or diploma or have met the State criteria for high
20 school graduation before the start of the school year for which
21 they are applying for the scholarship and waiver. Scholarships
22 and fee waivers shall be available to students for at least 5
23 years, provided they are continuing to work toward graduation.

1 Unused scholarship dollars and fee waivers shall be reallocated
2 to new recipients. No later than January 1, 2015, the
3 Department shall promulgate rules identifying the criteria for
4 "continuing to work toward graduation" and for reallocating
5 unused scholarships and fee waivers. Selection shall be made on
6 the basis of several factors, including, but not limited to,
7 scholastic record, aptitude, and general interest in higher
8 education. The selection committee shall include at least 2
9 individuals formerly under the care of the Department who have
10 completed their post-secondary education. In accordance with
11 this Act, tuition scholarships and fee waivers shall be
12 available to such students at any university or college
13 maintained by the State of Illinois. The Department shall
14 provide maintenance and school expenses, except tuition and
15 fees, during the academic years to supplement the students'
16 earnings or other resources so long as they consistently
17 maintain scholastic records which are acceptable to their
18 schools and to the Department. Students may attend other
19 colleges and universities, if scholarships are awarded them,
20 and receive the same benefits for maintenance and other
21 expenses as those students attending any Illinois State
22 community college, university, or college under this Section.
23 Beginning with recipients receiving scholarships and waivers
24 in August 2014, the Department shall collect data and report
25 annually to the General Assembly on measures of success,
26 including (i) the number of youth applying for and receiving

1 scholarships or waivers, (ii) the percentage of scholarship or
2 waiver recipients who complete their college or university
3 degree within 5 years, (iii) the average length of time it
4 takes for scholarship or waiver recipients to complete their
5 college or university degree, (iv) the reasons that scholarship
6 or waiver recipients are discharged or fail to complete their
7 college or university degree, (v) when available, youths'
8 outcomes 5 years and 10 years after being awarded the
9 scholarships or waivers, and (vi) budget allocations for
10 maintenance and school expenses incurred by the Department.

11 (b) Youth who are not selected to receive a scholarship or
12 fee waiver under subsection (a) shall receive a tuition and fee
13 waiver to assist them in attending and completing their
14 post-secondary education at any community college, university,
15 or college maintained by the State of Illinois if they are
16 youth for whom the Department has court-ordered legal
17 responsibility, youth who aged out of care at age 18 or older,
18 or youth formerly under care who have been adopted and were the
19 subject of an adoption assistance agreement or who have been
20 placed in private guardianship and were the subject of a
21 subsidized guardianship agreement.

22 To receive a waiver under this subsection, an applicant
23 must:

24 (1) have earned a high school diploma from an
25 accredited institution or a high school equivalency
26 certificate or have met the State criteria for high school

1 graduation before the start of the school year for which
2 the applicant is applying for the waiver;

3 (2) enroll in a qualifying post-secondary education
4 before the applicant reaches the age of 26; and

5 (3) apply for federal and State grant assistance by
6 completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

7 The community college or public university that an
8 applicant attends must waive any tuition and fee amounts that
9 exceed the amounts paid to the applicant under the federal Pell
10 Grant Program or the State's Monetary Award Program.

11 Tuition and fee waivers shall be available to a student for
12 at least the first 5 years the student is enrolled in a
13 community college, university, or college maintained by the
14 State of Illinois so long as the student makes satisfactory
15 progress toward completing his or her degree. The age
16 requirement and 5-year cap on tuition and fee waivers under
17 this subsection shall be waived and eligibility for tuition and
18 fee waivers shall be extended for any applicant or student who
19 the Department determines was unable to enroll in a qualifying
20 post-secondary school or complete an academic term because the
21 applicant or student: (i) was called into active duty with the
22 United States Armed Forces; (ii) was deployed for service in
23 the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; or
24 (iii) volunteered in the Peace Corps or the AmeriCorps. The
25 Department shall extend eligibility for a qualifying applicant
26 or student by the total number of months or years during which

1 the applicant or student served on active duty with the United
2 States Armed Forces, was deployed for service in the United
3 States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, or
4 volunteered in the Peace Corps or the AmeriCorps. The number of
5 months an applicant or student served on active duty with the
6 United States Armed Forces shall be rounded up to the next
7 higher year to determine the maximum length of time to extend
8 eligibility for the applicant or student.

9 The Department may provide the student with a stipend to
10 cover maintenance and school expenses, except tuition and fees,
11 during the academic years to supplement the student's earnings
12 or other resources so long as the student consistently
13 maintains scholastic records which are acceptable to the
14 student's school and to the Department.

15 The Department shall develop outreach programs to ensure
16 that youths who qualify for the tuition and fee waivers under
17 this subsection who are high school students in grades 9
18 through 12 or who are enrolled in a high school equivalency
19 testing program are aware of the availability of the tuition
20 and fee waivers.

21 (Source: P.A. 98-718, eff. 1-1-15; 98-805, eff. 1-1-15; 99-78,
22 eff. 7-20-15.)