

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 50 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/50)

7 Sec. 50. Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship  
8 program.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "Eligible applicant" means a minority student who has  
11 graduated from high school or has received a high school  
12 equivalency certificate and has maintained a cumulative  
13 grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and  
14 who by reason thereof is entitled to apply for scholarships  
15 to be awarded under this Section.

16 "Minority student" means a student who is any of the  
17 following:

18 (1) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person  
19 having origins in any of the original peoples of North  
20 and South America, including Central America, and who  
21 maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment).

22 (2) Asian (a person having origins in any of the  
23 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or

1 the Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited  
2 to, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,  
3 Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and  
4 Vietnam).

5 (3) Black or African American (a person having  
6 origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa).  
7 Terms such as "Haitian" or "Negro" can be used in  
8 addition to "Black or African American".

9 (4) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban, Mexican,  
10 Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other  
11 Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race).

12 (5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a  
13 person having origins in any of the original peoples of  
14 Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).

15 "Qualified student" means a person (i) who is a  
16 resident of this State and a citizen or permanent resident  
17 of the United States; (ii) who is a minority student, as  
18 defined in this Section; (iii) who, as an eligible  
19 applicant, has made a timely application for a minority  
20 teaching scholarship under this Section; (iv) who is  
21 enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a qualified  
22 Illinois institution of higher learning; (v) who is  
23 enrolled in a course of study leading to teacher licensure  
24 ~~certification~~, including alternative teacher licensure,  
25 or, if the student is already licensed to teach, in a  
26 course of study leading to an additional teaching

1       endorsement or a master's degree in an academic field in  
2       which he or she is teaching or plans to teach  
3       ~~certification~~; (vi) who maintains a grade point average of  
4       no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and (vii) who continues to  
5       advance satisfactorily toward the attainment of a degree.

6       (b) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois  
7       minority students to pursue teaching careers at the preschool  
8       or elementary or secondary school level, each qualified student  
9       shall be awarded a minority teacher scholarship to any  
10      qualified Illinois institution of higher learning. However,  
11      preference may be given to qualified applicants enrolled at or  
12      above the junior level.

13      (c) Each minority teacher scholarship awarded under this  
14      Section shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and  
15      fees and room and board costs of the qualified Illinois  
16      institution of higher learning at which the recipient is  
17      enrolled, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000; except that in the  
18      case of a recipient who does not reside on-campus at the  
19      institution at which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the  
20      scholarship shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee expenses  
21      and a commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000.

22      (d) The total amount of minority teacher scholarship  
23      assistance awarded by the Commission under this Section to an  
24      individual in any given fiscal year, when added to other  
25      financial assistance awarded to that individual for that year,  
26      shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the institution at

1 which the student is enrolled. If the amount of minority  
2 teacher scholarship to be awarded to a qualified student as  
3 provided in subsection (c) of this Section exceeds the cost of  
4 attendance at the institution at which the student is enrolled,  
5 the minority teacher scholarship shall be reduced by an amount  
6 equal to the amount by which the combined financial assistance  
7 available to the student exceeds the cost of attendance.

8 (e) The maximum number of academic terms for which a  
9 qualified student can receive minority teacher scholarship  
10 assistance shall be 8 semesters or 12 quarters.

11 (f) In any academic year for which an eligible applicant  
12 under this Section accepts financial assistance through the  
13 Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, as authorized by  
14 Section 551 et seq. of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the  
15 applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance  
16 awarded under this Section.

17 (g) All applications for minority teacher scholarships to  
18 be awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission  
19 on forms which the Commission shall provide for eligible  
20 applicants. The form of applications and the information  
21 required to be set forth therein shall be determined by the  
22 Commission, and the Commission shall require eligible  
23 applicants to submit with their applications such supporting  
24 documents or recommendations as the Commission deems  
25 necessary.

26 (h) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,

1 payment of any minority teacher scholarship awarded under this  
2 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship  
3 funds distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be  
4 paid to the institution and used only for payment of the  
5 tuition and fee and room and board expenses incurred by the  
6 student in connection with his or her attendance ~~as an~~  
7 ~~undergraduate student~~ at a qualified Illinois institution of  
8 higher learning. Any minority teacher scholarship awarded  
9 under this Section shall be applicable to 2 semesters or 3  
10 quarters of enrollment. If a qualified student withdraws from  
11 enrollment prior to completion of the first semester or quarter  
12 for which the minority teacher scholarship is applicable, the  
13 school shall refund to the Commission the full amount of the  
14 minority teacher scholarship.

15 (i) The Commission shall administer the minority teacher  
16 scholarship aid program established by this Section and shall  
17 make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this  
18 Section for its effective implementation.

19 (j) When an appropriation to the Commission for a given  
20 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all  
21 qualified students, the Commission shall allocate the  
22 appropriation in accordance with this subsection. If funds are  
23 insufficient to provide all qualified students with a  
24 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission shall  
25 allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal year  
26 on the basis of the date the Commission receives a complete

1 application form.

2 (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j) or any  
3 other provision of this Section, at least 30% of the funds  
4 appropriated for scholarships awarded under this Section in  
5 each fiscal year shall be reserved for qualified male minority  
6 applicants. If the Commission does not receive enough  
7 applications from qualified male minorities on or before  
8 January 1 of each fiscal year to award 30% of the funds  
9 appropriated for these scholarships to qualified male minority  
10 applicants, then the Commission may award a portion of the  
11 reserved funds to qualified female minority applicants.

12 (l) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any  
13 academic year, each recipient of a minority teacher scholarship  
14 awarded under this Section shall be required by the Commission  
15 to sign an agreement under which the recipient pledges that,  
16 within the one-year period following the termination of the  
17 program for which the recipient was awarded a minority teacher  
18 scholarship, the recipient (i) shall begin teaching for a  
19 period of not less than one year for each year of scholarship  
20 assistance he or she was awarded under this Section; and (ii)  
21 shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a nonprofit Illinois  
22 public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary school, or  
23 secondary school at which no less than 30% of the enrolled  
24 students are minority students in the year during which the  
25 recipient begins teaching at the school; and (iii) shall, upon  
26 request by the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence

1 that he or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the  
2 teaching agreement provided for in this subsection.

3 (m) If a recipient of a minority teacher scholarship  
4 awarded under this Section fails to fulfill the teaching  
5 obligation set forth in subsection (l) of this Section, the  
6 Commission shall require the recipient to repay the amount of  
7 the scholarships received, prorated according to the fraction  
8 of the teaching obligation not completed, at a rate of interest  
9 equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees.  
10 The Commission is authorized to establish rules relating to its  
11 collection activities for repayment of scholarships under this  
12 Section. All repayments collected under this Section shall be  
13 forwarded to the State Comptroller for deposit into the State's  
14 General Revenue Fund.

15 (n) A recipient of minority teacher scholarship shall not  
16 be considered in violation of the agreement entered into  
17 pursuant to subsection (l) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a  
18 full time basis as a graduate student in a course of study  
19 related to the field of teaching at a qualified Illinois  
20 institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not in excess  
21 of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the United  
22 States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total disability for  
23 a period of time not to exceed 3 years as established by sworn  
24 affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) is seeking and unable  
25 to find full time employment as a teacher at an Illinois  
26 public, private, or parochial preschool or elementary or

1 secondary school that satisfies the criteria set forth in  
2 subsection (l) of this Section and is able to provide evidence  
3 of that fact; (v) becomes a person with a permanent total  
4 disability as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified  
5 physician; (vi) is taking additional courses, on at least a  
6 half-time basis, needed to obtain licensure ~~certification~~ as a  
7 teacher in Illinois; or (vii) is fulfilling teaching  
8 requirements associated with other programs administered by  
9 the Commission and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this  
10 Section in a period of time equal to the length of the teaching  
11 obligation.

12 (o) Scholarship recipients under this Section who withdraw  
13 from a program of teacher education but remain enrolled in  
14 school to continue their postsecondary studies in another  
15 academic discipline shall not be required to commence repayment  
16 of their Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship so long as  
17 they remain enrolled in school on a full-time basis or if they  
18 can document for the Commission special circumstances that  
19 warrant extension of repayment.

20 (Source: P.A. 98-718, eff. 1-1-15; 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect June 1,  
22 2018.