



Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 815

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 815 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Commission on Equitable Public University Funding Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds all of the  
7 following:

8 (1) Historical and continued systemic racism has  
9 created significant disparities in college access,  
10 affordability, and completion for Black, Latinx, and other  
11 underrepresented and historically underserved students in  
12 this State.

13 (2) Improvements in postsecondary access, completion,  
14 and success rates are required in order to meet State  
15 goals for equity in attainment and will require further  
16 investments in the higher education system to support

1 historically underrepresented and underserved groups,  
2 including Black, Latinx, and low-income students in  
3 particular.

4 (3) This State's approach to funding education has  
5 contributed to racial and socioeconomic inequities in  
6 access to resources and educational outcomes.

7 (4) Great strides have been made in this State in  
8 addressing inequity in funding the kindergarten through  
9 grade 12 public school system, including the adoption of  
10 an evidence-based funding formula, which has resulted in  
11 new funds being targeted to the highest-need districts.

12 (5) Adequate, equitable, and stable investment in  
13 higher education is the key to ensuring that every  
14 institution of higher education can provide adequate  
15 academic, financial, and social-emotional support and  
16 services that improve persistence and completion.

17 (6) In this State, higher education appropriations  
18 have effectively been cut in half since fiscal year 2002.  
19 Institutions of higher education serving higher  
20 percentages of Black students are more reliant on State  
21 funds and have been disproportionately harmed by this  
22 disinvestment in higher education.

23 (7) As a result of historic underfunding and level  
24 cuts to institutions of higher education, this State's  
25 public universities have needed to increase tuition to  
26 make up the funding shortfalls.

1           (8) Combined with the high cost of college and  
2           insufficient State financial aid, racial income and wealth  
3           disparities caused by structural racism contribute to the  
4           accumulation of student debt and make college enrollment  
5           and persistence more challenging for Black and Latinx  
6           students.

7           (9) Despite similar numbers of Black high school  
8           graduates, about 25,000 fewer Black students enrolled in  
9           institutions of higher education in this State in 2018  
10          compared to 2008.

11          (10) State appropriations make it possible for  
12          colleges to provide essential academic services,  
13          social-emotional support and services, and institutional  
14          aid to students to improve student persistence and  
15          completion.

16          (11) This State must strategically invest in higher  
17          education to address wide disparities in degree  
18          completion. Public community colleges currently graduate  
19          Black and Latinx students at a rate of 14% and 26% within 3  
20          years, respectively, compared to 38% of white students. At  
21          public universities, Black and Latinx students currently  
22          graduate at a rate of 34% and 49%, respectively, compared  
23          to 66% of white students, within 6 years.

24          (12) This State has a moral obligation and economic  
25          interest in dismantling and reforming structures that  
26          create or exacerbate racial and socioeconomic inequities

1 in higher education.

2 (13) This State benefits from a public higher  
3 education system that receives adequate and stable  
4 resources for student success and that strategically uses  
5 those resources to maximize the potential of each public  
6 institution of higher education and to maximize the  
7 benefits to this State, including, but not limited to,  
8 improved college access and attainment and higher median  
9 wages for all residents, reduced income inequalities,  
10 improved economic output and innovation, increased access  
11 and engagement in world-class research opportunities, and  
12 improved college enrollment, persistence, and completion  
13 of underrepresented and historically underserved students,  
14 including Black and Latinx students and students from  
15 low-income families.

16 Section 10. Commission on Equitable Public University  
17 Funding; purpose.

18 (a) There is created the Commission on Equitable Public  
19 University Funding.

20 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to, at a minimum,  
21 recommend specific data-driven criteria and approaches to the  
22 General Assembly to adequately, equitably, and stably fund  
23 public universities in this State and to evaluate the existing  
24 funding methods used for public universities.

1           Section 15. Membership; administrative support;  
2 compensation.

3           (a) The membership of the Commission shall include, at a  
4 minimum:

5           (1) One member of the Senate appointed by the  
6 President of the Senate, who shall serve as  
7 co-chairperson.

8           (2) One member of the House of Representatives  
9 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
10 who shall serve as co-chairperson.

11           (3) The chairperson of the Board of Higher Education  
12 or a designee, who shall serve as co-chairperson.

13           (4) One member appointed by the Governor, who shall  
14 serve as co-chairperson.

15           (5) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority  
16 Leader of the Senate.

17           (6) One member of the House of Representatives  
18 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
19 Representatives.

20           (7) The Chairperson of the Illinois Student Assistance  
21 Commission or a designee.

22           (8) Twelve members representing the public  
23 universities in this State each appointed by the President  
24 of each public university.

25           (9) One member representing a higher education  
26 advocacy organization focused on eliminating disparities

1 in college completion in this State for low-income and  
2 first-generation college students and students of color  
3 appointed by the Board of Higher Education.

4 (10) One member representing a statewide advocacy  
5 organization focused on improving educational and  
6 employment opportunities for women and adults appointed by  
7 the Board of Higher Education.

8 (11) One member representing a statewide advocacy  
9 organization focused on developing an equitable  
10 birth-to-career educational system appointed by the Board  
11 of Higher Education.

12 (12) One member representing a statewide organization  
13 that advocates for alternative education and bridge  
14 programs and the re-enrollment of students in this State  
15 appointed by the Board of Higher Education.

16 (13) One member representing a fiscal policy research  
17 organization focused on the impact that State-level budget  
18 and tax policies have on equitable education funding  
19 solutions appointed by the Board of Higher Education.

20 (14) Two members representing an organization that  
21 advocates on behalf of public university faculty members  
22 who are each employed by a different university appointed  
23 by the Board of Higher Education.

24 (15) One health care expert from the public higher  
25 education arena appointed by the Board of Higher  
26 Education, in consultation with the presidents and

1           chancellors of the public universities.

2           (16) One member who has legal expertise in higher  
3           education funding and finance appointed by the Board of  
4           Higher Education.

5           (17) One postsecondary student enrolled at a public  
6           university in this State appointed by the Board of Higher  
7           Education.

8           (b) The Board of Higher Education shall recognize and  
9           consider the representation of underrepresented and  
10          historically underserved groups, including those who are  
11          Black, Latinx, or from low-income families, and the racial and  
12          geographical diversity of this State when making appointments  
13          to the Commission.

14          (c) The co-chairpersons may identify and invite experts to  
15          speak to the Commission on issues, including, but not limited  
16          to, higher education funding, finance, health care, and  
17          research and development.

18          (d) The Board of Higher Education shall provide  
19          administrative support to the Commission, including any  
20          related workgroups, and shall be responsible for administering  
21          the Commission's operations and ensuring that the requirements  
22          of this Act are met.

23          (e) The members of the Commission shall serve without  
24          compensation for their services as members of the Commission.

25          Section 20. Meetings; reports.

1 (a) The Commission shall meet at least once per quarter  
2 beginning no later than October 15, 2021.

3 (b) On or before July 1, 2023, the Commission shall  
4 deliver to the General Assembly and publish on the Board of  
5 Higher Education's Internet website or otherwise make publicly  
6 available a report on the Commission's recommendations,  
7 including specific criteria and funding approaches in  
8 accordance with all applicable laws, to establish an  
9 equity-based funding model for the allocation of State funds  
10 to public universities. The recommendations included in the  
11 report must be equity-centered and consider all of the  
12 following areas:

13 (1) Remediating inequities in funding that have led to  
14 disparities in access, affordability, and completion for  
15 underrepresented and historically underserved student  
16 groups, including students who are Black, Latinx, or from  
17 low-income families.

18 (2) Ensuring that this State adequately, equitably,  
19 and stably funds public institutions of higher education  
20 in a manner that recognizes historical and current  
21 inequities impacting underrepresented minorities' higher  
22 education access and completion.

23 (3) Providing incentives to all 4-year institutions of  
24 higher education in this State to enroll underrepresented  
25 and historically underserved student groups, including  
26 students who are Black, Latinx, or from low-income



1 families, in proportion to the diversity of this State's  
2 population.

3 (4) Allowing ongoing monitoring and continuous  
4 improvement of the public university funding models by  
5 requiring transparency and accountability in how State  
6 appropriations are expended and identifying a mechanism to  
7 study and review the implementation of any funding model  
8 developed and the long-term implications of this Act.

9 (5) Creating guidelines for how funding is distributed  
10 during times of significant economic hardship, as defined  
11 by the Commission, so that public institutions of higher  
12 education are able to adequately, equitably, and stably  
13 serve students.

14 (6) Ensuring that this State adequately and stably  
15 funds public institutions of higher education that serve  
16 underrepresented and historically underserved student  
17 groups, including students who are Black, Latinx, or from  
18 low-income families, and graduate and professional  
19 students, including doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and  
20 veterinarians.

21 (7) Supporting the diverse individual mission of each  
22 public university, including its commitment to research  
23 and health care enterprises that serve and enhance the  
24 well-being of the residents of this State.

25 (8) Fostering the economic activity and innovation  
26 generated by a university's activities, while recognizing

1 the impact historic funding inequities may have had on the  
2 university's activities.

3 (9) Taking into consideration the percentage of  
4 institutional aid provided from an institution's annual  
5 budget.

6 (10) Taking into consideration the number of  
7 undergraduate students engaged in research at each  
8 university.

9 (11) Supporting institutional efforts to recruit and  
10 retain world-class faculty and university leaders.

11 (12) Ensuring stable and adequate funding for all  
12 institutions and that all universities are held harmless  
13 to their current funding level. The Commission may  
14 consider and report approaches to and the impact of a hold  
15 harmless funding provision for institutions of higher  
16 education as part of its final recommendations.

17 (13) Taking into consideration the long-term  
18 implications and outcomes of the funding systems.

19 The recommendations must fulfill the principles  
20 established by the Board of Higher Education's Strategic Plan.  
21 The recommendations may also be informed by the data-driven  
22 findings and recommendations established by the Chicago State  
23 University Equity Working Group or other groups researching  
24 equity in higher education and higher education funding and be  
25 aligned to this State's postsecondary attainment goal and  
26 related equity targets.

1           Section 25. Compliance. Notwithstanding any other law or  
2 provision to the contrary, all public institutions of higher  
3 education and State agencies regulating public institutions of  
4 higher education shall furnish such data and information to  
5 the Commission as the Commission deems necessary to fulfill  
6 the requirements of this Act.

7           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
8 becoming law.".