

SB3672



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB3672

Introduced 1/21/2022, by Sen. Chapin Rose

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.100

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act with respect to the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program. Removes language referring to the program as a pilot program. Removes a provision requiring a partial match of non-loan financial aid. Removes the repealer provision. Effective immediately.

LRB102 22434 CMG 31574 b

A BILL FOR

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 65.100 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.100)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on October 1, 2024)

8 Sec. 65.100. AIM HIGH Grant ~~Pilot~~ Program.

9 (a) The General Assembly makes all of the following
10 findings:

11 (1) Both access and affordability are important
12 aspects of the Illinois Public Agenda for College and
13 Career Success report.

14 (2) This State is in the top quartile with respect to
15 the percentage of family income needed to pay for college.

16 (3) Research suggests that as loan amounts increase,
17 rather than an increase in grant amounts, the probability
18 of college attendance decreases.

19 (4) There is further research indicating that
20 socioeconomic status may affect the willingness of
21 students to use loans to attend college.

22 (5) Strategic use of tuition discounting can decrease
23 the amount of loans that students must use to pay for

1 tuition.

2 (6) A modest, individually tailored tuition discount
3 can make the difference in a student choosing to attend
4 college and enhance college access for low-income and
5 middle-income families.

6 (7) Even if the federally calculated financial need
7 for college attendance is met, the federally determined
8 Expected Family Contribution can still be a daunting
9 amount.

10 (8) This State is the second largest exporter of
11 students in the country.

12 (9) When talented Illinois students attend
13 universities in this State, the State and those
14 universities benefit.

15 (10) State universities in other states have adopted
16 pricing and incentives that allow many Illinois residents
17 to pay less to attend an out-of-state university than to
18 remain in this State for college.

19 (11) Supporting Illinois student attendance at
20 Illinois public universities can assist in State efforts
21 to maintain and educate a highly trained workforce.

22 (12) Modest tuition discounts that are individually
23 targeted and tailored can result in enhanced revenue for
24 public universities.

25 (13) By increasing a public university's capacity to
26 strategically use tuition discounting, the public

1 university will be capable of creating enhanced tuition
2 revenue by increasing enrollment yields.

3 (b) In this Section:

4 "Eligible applicant" means a student from any high school
5 in this State, whether or not recognized by the State Board of
6 Education, who is engaged in a program of study that in due
7 course will be completed by the end of the school year and who
8 meets all of the qualifications and requirements under this
9 Section.

10 "Tuition and other necessary fees" includes the customary
11 charge for instruction and use of facilities in general and
12 the additional fixed fees charged for specified purposes that
13 are required generally of non-grant recipients for each
14 academic period for which the grant applicant actually
15 enrolls, but does not include fees payable only once or
16 breakage fees and other contingent deposits that are
17 refundable in whole or in part. The Commission may adopt, by
18 rule not inconsistent with this Section, detailed provisions
19 concerning the computation of tuition and other necessary
20 fees.

21 (c) Beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, each
22 public university may establish a merit-based scholarship
23 ~~pilot~~ program known as the AIM HIGH Grant ~~Pilot~~ Program. Each
24 year, the Commission shall receive and consider applications
25 from public universities under this Section. Subject to
26 appropriation and any tuition waiver limitation established by

1 the Board of Higher Education, a public university campus may
2 award a grant to a student under this Section if it finds that
3 the applicant meets all of the following criteria:

4 (1) He or she is a resident of this State and a citizen
5 or eligible noncitizen of the United States.

6 (2) He or she files a Free Application for Federal
7 Student Aid and demonstrates financial need with a
8 household income no greater than 6 times the poverty
9 guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by
10 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the
11 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). The household income of
12 the applicant at the time of initial application shall be
13 deemed to be the household income of the applicant for the
14 duration of the ~~pilot~~ program.

15 (3) He or she meets the minimum cumulative grade point
16 average or ACT or SAT college admissions test score, as
17 determined by the public university campus.

18 (4) He or she is enrolled in a public university as an
19 undergraduate student on a full-time basis.

20 (5) He or she has not yet received a baccalaureate
21 degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours.

22 (6) He or she is not incarcerated.

23 (7) He or she is not in default on any student loan or
24 does not owe a refund or repayment on any State or federal
25 grant or scholarship.

26 (8) Any other reasonable criteria, as determined by

1 the public university campus.

2 (d) Each public university campus shall determine grant
3 renewal criteria consistent with the requirements under this
4 Section.

5 (e) Each participating public university campus shall post
6 on its Internet website criteria and eligibility requirements
7 for receiving awards that use funds under this Section that
8 include a range in the sizes of these individual awards. The
9 criteria and amounts must also be reported to the Commission
10 and the Board of Higher Education, who shall post the
11 information on their respective Internet websites.

12 (f) After enactment of an appropriation for this Program,
13 the Commission shall determine an allocation of funds to each
14 public university in an amount proportionate to the number of
15 undergraduate students who are residents of this State and
16 citizens or eligible noncitizens of the United States and who
17 were enrolled at each public university campus in the previous
18 academic year. All applications must be made to the Commission
19 on or before a date determined by the Commission and on forms
20 that the Commission shall provide to each public university
21 campus. The form of the application and the information
22 required shall be determined by the Commission and shall
23 include, without limitation, the total public university
24 campus funds used to match funds received from the Commission
25 in the previous academic year under this Section, if any, the
26 total enrollment of undergraduate students who are residents

1 of this State from the previous academic year, and any
2 supporting documents as the Commission deems necessary. Each
3 public university campus shall match the amount of funds
4 received by the Commission with financial aid for eligible
5 students.

6 ~~A public university in which an average of at least 49% of~~
7 ~~the students seeking a bachelor's degree or certificate~~
8 ~~received a Pell Grant over the prior 3 academic years, as~~
9 ~~reported to the Commission, shall match 20% of the amount of~~
10 ~~funds awarded in a given academic year with non loan financial~~
11 ~~aid for eligible students. A public university in which an~~
12 ~~average of less than 49% of the students seeking a bachelor's~~
13 ~~degree or certificate received a Pell Grant over the prior 3~~
14 ~~academic years, as reported to the Commission, shall match 60%~~
15 ~~of the amount of funds awarded in a given academic year with~~
16 ~~non loan financial aid for eligible students.~~

17 A public university campus is not required to claim its
18 entire allocation. The Commission shall make available to all
19 public universities, on a date determined by the Commission,
20 any unclaimed funds and the funds must be made available to
21 those public university campuses in the proportion determined
22 under this subsection (f), excluding from the calculation
23 those public university campuses not claiming their full
24 allocations.

25 Each public university campus may determine the award
26 amounts for eligible students on an individual or broad basis,

1 but, subject to renewal eligibility, each renewed award may
2 not be less than the amount awarded to the eligible student in
3 his or her first year attending the public university campus.
4 Notwithstanding this limitation, a renewal grant may be
5 reduced due to changes in the student's cost of attendance,
6 including, but not limited to, if a student reduces the number
7 of credit hours in which he or she is enrolled, but remains a
8 full-time student, or switches to a course of study with a
9 lower tuition rate.

10 An eligible applicant awarded grant assistance under this
11 Section is eligible to receive other financial aid. Total
12 grant aid to the student from all sources may not exceed the
13 total cost of attendance at the public university campus.

14 (g) All money allocated to a public university campus
15 under this Section may be used only for financial aid purposes
16 for students attending the public university campus during the
17 academic year, not including summer terms. Notwithstanding any
18 other provision of law to the contrary, any funds received by a
19 public university campus under this Section that are not
20 granted to students in the academic year for which the funds
21 are received may be retained by the public university campus
22 for expenditure on students participating in the Program or
23 students eligible to participate in the Program.

24 (h) Each public university campus that establishes a
25 Program under this Section must annually report to the
26 Commission, on or before a date determined by the Commission,

1 the number of undergraduate students enrolled at that campus
2 who are residents of this State.

3 (i) Each public university campus must report to the
4 Commission the total non-loan financial aid amount given by
5 the public university campus to undergraduate students in the
6 2017-2018 academic year, not including the summer term. To be
7 eligible to receive funds under the Program, a public
8 university campus may not decrease the total amount of
9 non-loan financial aid it gives to undergraduate students, not
10 including any funds received from the Commission under this
11 Section or any funds used to match grant awards under this
12 Section, to an amount lower than the reported amount for the
13 2017-2018 academic year, not including the summer term.

14 (j) On or before a date determined by the Commission, each
15 public university campus that participates in the Program
16 under this Section shall annually submit a report to the
17 Commission with all of the following information:

18 (1) The Program's impact on tuition revenue and
19 enrollment goals and increase in access and affordability
20 at the public university campus.

21 (2) Total funds received by the public university
22 campus under the Program.

23 (3) Total non-loan financial aid awarded to
24 undergraduate students attending the public university
25 campus.

26 (4) Total amount of funds matched by the public

1 university campus.

2 (5) Total amount of claimed and unexpended funds
3 retained by the public university campus.

4 (6) The percentage of total financial aid distributed
5 under the Program by the public university campus.

6 (7) The total number of students receiving grants from
7 the public university campus under the Program and those
8 students' grade level, race, gender, income level, family
9 size, Monetary Award Program eligibility, Pell Grant
10 eligibility, and zip code of residence and the amount of
11 each grant award. This information shall include unit
12 record data on those students regarding variables
13 associated with the parameters of the public university's
14 Program, including, but not limited to, a student's ACT or
15 SAT college admissions test score, high school or
16 university cumulative grade point average, or program of
17 study.

18 On or before October 1, 2020 and annually on or before
19 October 1 thereafter, the Commission shall submit a report
20 with the findings under this subsection (j) and any other
21 information regarding the AIM HIGH Grant ~~Pilot~~ Program to (i)
22 the Governor, (ii) the Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives, (iii) the Minority Leader of the House of
24 Representatives, (iv) the President of the Senate, and (v) the
25 Minority Leader of the Senate. The reports to the General
26 Assembly shall be filed with the Clerk of the House of

1 Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate in electronic
2 form only, in the manner that the Clerk and the Secretary shall
3 direct. The Commission's report may not disaggregate data to a
4 level that may disclose personally identifying information of
5 individual students.

6 The sharing and reporting of student data under this
7 subsection (j) must be in accordance with the requirements
8 under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of
9 1974 and the Illinois School Student Records Act. All parties
10 must preserve the confidentiality of the information as
11 required by law. The names of the grant recipients under this
12 Section are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of
13 Information Act.

14 Public university campuses that fail to submit a report
15 under this subsection (j) or that fail to adhere to any other
16 requirements under this Section may not be eligible for
17 distribution of funds under the Program for the next academic
18 year, but may be eligible for distribution of funds for each
19 academic year thereafter.

20 (k) The Commission shall adopt rules to implement this
21 Section.

22 ~~(l) This Section is repealed on October 1, 2024.~~

23 (Source: P.A. 100-587, eff. 6-4-18; 100-1015, eff. 8-21-18;
24 100-1183, eff. 4-4-19; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-613, eff.
25 6-1-20; 101-643, eff. 6-18-20; 101-654, eff. 3-8-21.)

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

1 becoming law.