



Rep. Mary E. Flowers

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10300HB1086ham001

LRB103 04843 RJT 59546 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1086

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 1086 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by adding Section 65.120 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.120 new)

7 Sec. 65.120. Grants for essential workers.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "Dependent" means a spouse, natural child, legally adopted
10 child, or child in the legal custody of an essential worker.

11 "Essential worker" means an individual whose employment
12 duties provide a service that is typically deemed vital to
13 public health and safety and economic and national security
14 and essential to continue critical infrastructure operations.

15 "Essential worker" includes, but is not limited to, a medical
16 or healthcare worker; child care or school personnel; an

1 in-home support provider; a telecommunications, information
2 technology systems, defense, food or agriculture,
3 transportation or logistics, energy, or water or wastewater
4 worker, or law enforcement personnel.

5 "Satisfactory academic progress" means the qualified
6 applicant's maintenance of minimum standards of academic
7 performance, consistent with requirements for maintaining
8 federal financial aid eligibility, as determined by the
9 institution of higher learning.

10 (b) Subject to a separate appropriation for this purpose,
11 the Commission shall, each year, receive and consider
12 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Both an
13 essential worker and all dependents of the essential worker
14 qualify to receive a grant issued by the Commission in
15 accordance with this Section. Provided that the recipient is
16 maintaining satisfactory academic progress, the funds from the
17 grant may be used to pay up to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of
18 full payment of tuition and mandatory fees at any public
19 university or public community college located in this State
20 for either full or part-time study based on the income of the
21 recipient. This benefit may be used for undergraduate or
22 graduate study.

23 In addition, a qualified applicant who has not yet
24 received a high school diploma or a high school equivalency
25 certificate and completes a high school equivalency
26 preparation course through an Illinois Community College

1 Board-approved provider may use grant funds to pay costs
2 associated with obtaining a high school equivalency
3 certificate, including payment of the cost of the high school
4 equivalency test and up to one retest on each test module, and
5 any additional fees that may be required in order to obtain an
6 Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate or an official
7 transcript of test scores after successful completion of the
8 high school equivalency test.

9 (c) An applicant for a grant under this Section need not
10 demonstrate financial need to qualify for the benefits.

11 (d) The Commission may adopt any rules necessary to
12 implement and administer this Section.

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
14 2023."