

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 State of Illinois High School
19 Diploma or have met the State criteria for high school
20 graduation before the start of the school year for which they
21 are applying for the scholarship and waiver. Scholarships and
22 fee waivers shall be available to students for at least 5
23 years, provided they are continuing to work toward graduation

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

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

13 (b) Youth shall receive a tuition and fee waiver to assist
14 them in attending and completing their post-secondary
15 education at any community college, university, or college
16 maintained by the State of Illinois if they are youth for whom
17 the Department has court-ordered legal responsibility, youth
18 who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or youth formerly
19 under care who have been adopted and were the subject of an
20 adoption assistance agreement or who have been placed in
21 private guardianship and were the subject of a subsidized
22 guardianship agreement.

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

25 (1) have earned a high school diploma from an
26 accredited institution or a State of Illinois High School

1 Diploma or have met the State criteria for high school
2 graduation before the start of the school year for which
3 the applicant is applying for the waiver;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (c) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall provide
25 eligible youth an apprenticeship stipend to cover those costs
26 associated with entering and sustaining through completion an

1 apprenticeship, including, but not limited to fees, tuition
2 for classes, work clothes, rain gear, boots, and
3 occupation-specific tools. The following youth may be eligible
4 for the apprenticeship stipend provided under this subsection:
5 youth for whom the Department has court-ordered legal
6 responsibility; youth who aged out of care at age 18 or older;
7 or youth formerly under care who have been adopted and were the
8 subject of an adoption assistance agreement or who have been
9 placed in private guardianship and were the subject of a
10 subsidized guardianship agreement.

11 To receive a stipend under this subsection, an applicant
12 must:

13 (1) be enrolled in an apprenticeship training program
14 approved or recognized by the Illinois Department of
15 Employment Security or an apprenticeship program approved
16 by the United States Department of Labor;

17 (2) not be a recipient of a scholarship or fee waiver
18 under subsection (a) or (b); and

19 (3) be under the age of 26 before enrolling in a
20 qualified apprenticeship program.

21 Apprenticeship stipends shall be available to an eligible
22 youth for a maximum of 5 years after the youth enrolls in a
23 qualifying apprenticeship program so long as the youth makes
24 satisfactory progress toward completing the youth's
25 apprenticeship. The age requirement and 5-year cap on the
26 apprenticeship stipend provided under this subsection shall be

1 extended for any applicant who the Department determines was
2 unable to enroll in a qualifying apprenticeship program
3 because the applicant: (i) was called into active duty with
4 the United States Armed Forces; (ii) was deployed for service
5 in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps;
6 or (iii) volunteered in the Peace Corps or the AmeriCorps. The
7 Department shall extend eligibility for a qualifying applicant
8 by the total number of months or years during which the
9 applicant served on active duty with the United States Armed
10 Forces, was deployed for service in the United States Public
11 Health Service Commissioned Corps, or volunteered in the Peace
12 Corps or the AmeriCorps. The number of months an applicant
13 served on active duty with the United States Armed Forces
14 shall be rounded up to the next higher year to determine the
15 maximum length of time to extend eligibility for the
16 applicant.

17 The Department shall develop outreach programs to ensure
18 that youths who qualify for the apprenticeship stipends under
19 this subsection who are high school students in grades 9
20 through 12 or who are enrolled in a high school equivalency
21 testing program are aware of the availability of the
22 apprenticeship stipend.

23 (Source: P.A. 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23; 103-22, eff. 8-8-23;
24 103-154, eff. 6-30-23.)

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
26 becoming law.