



93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2003 and 2004

Introduced 02/04/04, by Kevin A. McCarthy

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/35

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Makes changes concerning the Monetary Award Program. Removes a provision that provides that a grant is applicable to tuition and fees for 2 semesters or 3 quarters in an academic year. Removes provisions concerning part-time and summer term enrollment. Provides that the maximum grant amount shall be \$4,968 during an academic year (instead of for 2 semesters or 3 quarter of full-time enrollment). Provides that an applicant is ineligible for assistance after the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours (instead of 10 semesters or 15 quarters) of award payments. Effective July 1, 2004.

LRB093 15097 NHT 42184 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning higher education student assistance.

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 35 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/35)

7 Sec. 35. Monetary award program.

8 (a) The Commission shall, each year, receive and consider
9 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Subject
10 to a separate appropriation for such purposes, an applicant is
11 eligible for a grant under this Section when the Commission
12 finds that the applicant:

13 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or
14 permanent resident of the United States; and

15 (2) in the absence of grant assistance, will be
16 deterred by financial considerations from completing an
17 educational program at the qualified institution of his or
18 her choice.

19 (b) The Commission shall award renewals only upon the
20 student's application and upon the Commission's finding that
21 the applicant:

22 (1) has remained a student in good standing;

23 (2) remains a resident of this State; and

24 (3) is in a financial situation that continues to
25 warrant assistance.

26 (c) All grants shall be applicable only to tuition and
27 necessary fee costs. ~~for 2 semesters or 3 quarters in an~~
28 ~~academic year. Requests for summer term assistance will be made~~
29 ~~separately and shall be considered on an individual basis~~
30 ~~according to Commission policy. Each student who is awarded a~~
31 ~~grant under this Section and is enrolled in summer school~~
32 ~~classes shall be eligible for a summer school grant. The summer~~

1 ~~school grant amount shall not exceed the lesser of 50 percent~~
2 ~~of the maximum annual grant amount authorized by this Section~~
3 ~~or the actual cost of tuition and fees at the institution at~~
4 ~~which the student is enrolled at least part-time. For the~~
5 ~~regular academic year,~~ The Commission shall determine the grant
6 amount for each ~~full-time and part-time~~ student, which shall
7 not exceed ~~be~~ the smallest of the following amounts:

8 (1) ~~\$4,968 for 2 semesters or 3 quarters of full-time~~
9 ~~undergraduate enrollment or \$2,484 for 2 semesters or 3~~
10 ~~quarters of part-time undergraduate enrollment,~~ or such
11 lesser amount as the Commission finds to be available,
12 during an academic year; or

13 (2) the amount which equals ~~the~~ 2 semesters or 3
14 quarters tuition and other necessary fees required
15 generally by the institution of all full-time
16 undergraduate students, ~~or in the case of part-time~~
17 ~~students an amount of tuition and fees for 2 semesters or 3~~
18 ~~quarters which shall not exceed one half the amount of~~
19 ~~tuition and necessary fees generally charged to full-time~~
20 ~~undergraduate students by the institution;~~ or

21 (3) such amount as the Commission finds to be
22 appropriate in view of the applicant's financial
23 resources.

24 "Tuition and other necessary fees" as used in this Section
25 include the customary charge for instruction and use of
26 facilities in general, and the additional fixed fees charged
27 for specified purposes, which are required generally of
28 nongrant recipients for each academic period for which the
29 grant applicant actually enrolls, but do not include fees
30 payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent
31 deposits which are refundable in whole or in part. The
32 Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with this
33 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of
34 tuition and other necessary fees.

35 (d) No applicant, including those presently receiving
36 scholarship assistance under this Act, is eligible for monetary

1 award program consideration under this Act after receiving a
2 baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit
3 hours ~~10 semesters or 15 quarters~~ of award payments. ~~The~~
4 ~~Commission shall determine when award payments for part-time~~
5 ~~enrollment or interim or summer terms shall be counted as a~~
6 ~~partial semester or quarter of payment.~~

7 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to
8 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with
9 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The Commission
10 shall notify applicants that grant assistance is contingent
11 upon the availability of appropriated funds.

12 (f) The Commission may request appropriations for deposit
13 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund. Monies deposited
14 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund may be expended
15 exclusively for one purpose: to make Monetary Award Program
16 grants to eligible students. Amounts on deposit in the Monetary
17 Award Program Reserve Fund may not exceed 2% of the current
18 annual State appropriation for the Monetary Award Program.

19 The purpose of the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund is
20 to enable the Commission each year to assure as many students
21 as possible of their eligibility for a Monetary Award Program
22 grant and to do so before commencement of the academic year.
23 Moneys deposited in this Reserve Fund are intended to enhance
24 the Commission's management of the Monetary Award Program,
25 minimizing the necessity, magnitude, and frequency of
26 adjusting award amounts and ensuring that the annual Monetary
27 Award Program appropriation can be fully utilized.

28 (g) The Commission shall determine the eligibility of and
29 make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit
30 institutions in accordance with the criteria set forth in this
31 Section. The eligibility of applicants enrolled at such
32 for-profit institutions shall be limited as follows:

33 (1) Beginning with the academic year 1997, only to
34 eligible first-time freshmen and first-time transfer
35 students who have attained an associate degree.

36 (2) Beginning with the academic year 1998, only to

1 eligible freshmen students, transfer students who have
2 attained an associate degree, and students who receive a
3 grant under paragraph (1) for the academic year 1997 and
4 whose grants are being renewed for the academic year 1998.

5 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all
6 eligible students.

7 (Source: P.A. 91-249, eff. 7-22-99; 91-250, eff. 7-22-99;
8 91-357, eff. 7-29-99; 91-747, eff. 7-1-00; 92-45, eff. 7-1-01.)

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
10 2004.