



Rep. Laura Fine

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1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 3947

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 3947 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 65.90 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.90 new)

7 Sec. 65.90. Smarter Illinois and Retaining Talent Tuition
8 Program.

9 (a) It is the intent of the legislature that the pilot
10 program created under this Section continue for at least 5
11 years. The Commission shall seek funding for the pilot program
12 from private and public sources. The legislature shall
13 appropriate money from these sources and from the General
14 Revenue Fund in each State fiscal year that the pilot program
15 continues in an amount sufficient to operate the pilot program.
16 However, money from the Education Assistance Fund must not be

1 appropriated for the pilot program.

2 (b) In this Section:

3 "Adjusted gross income" means "adjusted gross income" as
4 defined in Section 62 of the federal Internal Revenue Code (26
5 U.S.C. 62).

6 "Community college" means a public community college
7 located in this State.

8 "Participant" means a student selected by the Commission to
9 participate in the pilot program.

10 "Pilot program" means the Smarter Illinois and Retaining
11 Talent Tuition Program created in this Section.

12 "Public university" means a public university located in
13 this State.

14 "Tuition" means the quarter or semester charges imposed to
15 attend a community college or public university and all
16 mandatory fees required as a condition of enrollment, as
17 determined by the Commission.

18 "Weighted average tuition cost of community colleges"
19 means the tuition cost arrived at by adding the products of the
20 annual tuition cost at each community college and its total
21 number of fiscal-year-equated students, then dividing the
22 gross total of this cumulation by the total number of
23 fiscal-year-equated students attending community colleges.

24 "Weighted average tuition cost of public universities"
25 means the tuition cost arrived at by adding the products of the
26 annual tuition cost at each public university and its total

1 number of fiscal-year-equated students, then dividing the
2 gross total of this cumulation by the total number of
3 fiscal-year-equated students attending public universities.

4 (c) The Commission shall create and implement a tuition
5 grant pilot program, to be known as the Smarter Illinois and
6 Retaining Talent Tuition Program, that pays certain tuition
7 costs of participating community college and public university
8 students in exchange for those students' agreement to pay this
9 State a certain percentage of their future income. All of the
10 following apply to this pilot program:

11 (1) The Commission shall select 100 students who are
12 enrolled in a public university in a science, technology,
13 engineering, or mathematics field of study and 100 students
14 who are enrolled in a community college in a science,
15 technology, engineering, or mathematics field of study to
16 participate in the pilot program.

17 (2) A student enrolled in a community college or public
18 university may submit an application to the Commission to
19 participate in the pilot program if he or she is a resident
20 of this State, as determined by the community college or
21 public university. The Commission shall select the
22 participants in the pilot program from among those
23 applicants. If there are more than 100 applicants to
24 participate in the pilot program as community college
25 students or more than 100 applicants to participate in the
26 pilot program as public university students, the

1 Commission shall select the participants from among the
2 applicants using a random selection process.

3 (3) A student is not eligible to participate in the
4 pilot program if the adjusted gross income of the student
5 and his or her immediate family is \$250,000 or more.

6 (4) Each participant shall enter into a written
7 agreement that provides that, in exchange for payment on
8 his or her behalf of an amount equal to the weighted
9 average tuition cost to the public university or community
10 college in which he or she is enrolled, he or she agrees to
11 pay the Commission a percentage of his or her future
12 earnings. The participant's payment obligation under this
13 subdivision (4) shall meet the requirements of subsection
14 (d) of this Section.

15 (5) For an academic year, the amount of a grant to a
16 participant shall not exceed the weighted average tuition
17 cost of community colleges if the participant is enrolled
18 in a community college or the weighted average tuition cost
19 of public universities if the participant is enrolled in a
20 public university.

21 (6) The Commission may not award a grant in more than 3
22 consecutive academic years if the participant is enrolled
23 in a community college or 5 consecutive academic years if
24 the participant is enrolled in a public university.

25 (7) After completion of the first full academic year in
26 which he or she participates in the pilot program, a

1 participant is ineligible to receive additional grants if
2 he or she fails to maintain a cumulative grade point
3 average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent at
4 the community college or public university in which he or
5 she is enrolled and that failure continues for more than
6 one term or semester.

7 (8) It is the intent of the legislature that the
8 Commission's administrative costs in connection with the
9 pilot program not exceed 1%.

10 (d) In each calendar year for which a participant in the
11 pilot program has a payment obligation described in subdivision
12 (4) of subsection (c) of this Section, the participant shall
13 pay the Commission an amount equal to 2% of his or her adjusted
14 gross income for that year if he or she attended a community
15 college or 4% of his or her adjusted gross income for that year
16 if he or she attended a public university. The participant's
17 payment obligation begins in the first calendar year in which
18 he or she obtains employment after he or she graduated from or
19 stopped attending the community college or public university in
20 which he or she was enrolled and his or her adjusted gross
21 income from that employment in that year exceeds the poverty
22 guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the
23 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the
24 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). The payment obligation
25 continues for the following consecutive number of years, as
26 applicable:

1 (1) If tuition payments were made on behalf of the
2 participant by the Commission for one academic year at the
3 community college or public university, 5 years of
4 payments.

5 (2) If tuition payments were made on behalf of the
6 participant by the Commission for 2 academic years at the
7 community college or public university, 10 years of
8 payments.

9 (3) If tuition payments were made on behalf of the
10 participant by the Commission for 3 academic years at the
11 community college or public university, 15 years of
12 payments.

13 (4) If tuition payments were made on behalf of the
14 participant by the Commission for 4 academic years at the
15 public university, 20 years of payments.

16 (5) If tuition payments were made on behalf of the
17 participant by the Commission for 5 academic years at the
18 public university, 25 years of payments.

19 (e) On or before the start of each State fiscal year,
20 beginning with the 2016 fiscal year, the Commission shall
21 submit to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Financial
22 Aid Restructuring Committee established in subsection (f) of
23 this Section a report concerning the implementation of the
24 pilot program in the preceding State fiscal year. The report
25 shall include all of the following for the preceding State
26 fiscal year:

1 (1) The number of participants who were enrolled in
2 community colleges and, for those participants, the number
3 that continued in the pilot program; the number that
4 dropped out of the pilot program; the number that dropped
5 out of a community college; and the number that graduated
6 from a community college.

7 (2) The number of participants who were enrolled in
8 public universities and, for those participants, the
9 number that continued in the pilot program; the number that
10 dropped out of the pilot program; the number that dropped
11 out of a public university; and the number that graduated
12 from a public university.

13 (3) An analysis of the payments described in
14 subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of this Section that the
15 Commission had received from participants, including, but
16 not limited to, how many payments were made on time, how
17 many payments were late, how much each recipient had
18 received from the Commission under this Section, and how
19 much each participant had repaid to the Commission.

20 (4) The number of participants who had found
21 employment.

22 (5) The number of students who were then unemployed.

23 (6) A general summary of the pilot program, including,
24 but not limited to, how much the Commission had paid on
25 behalf of participants, the total amount repaid to the
26 Commission by participants, and a projection of future

1 payments the Commission estimated it would receive from
2 participants.

3 (f) The Financial Aid Restructuring Committee is
4 established within the Commission. All of the following apply
5 to the committee:

6 (1) The committee shall consist of all of the following
7 members:

8 (A) Five voting members who are residents of this
9 State and are appointed by the Governor, as follows:

10 (i) One individual representing public
11 universities.

12 (ii) One individual representing community
13 colleges.

14 (iii) One individual selected from one or more
15 individuals nominated by the President of the
16 Senate.

17 (iv) One individual selected from one or more
18 individuals nominated by the Speaker of the House
19 of Representatives.

20 (v) One individual representing the public.

21 (B) The Executive Director of the Commission or his
22 or her designee, who is a nonvoting member of the
23 committee and shall serve as chairperson of the
24 committee.

25 (2) The term of office of the appointed members is 2
26 years and until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

1 A member may be removed in the manner provided for by law
2 for removal of public officers. A vacancy must be filled
3 for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original
4 appointment.

5 (3) The committee shall conduct its activities in
6 compliance with the Open Meetings Act. The committee shall
7 give public notice of the time, date, and place of meetings
8 of the committee in the manner required by the Open
9 Meetings Act.

10 (4) The committee shall make any writing prepared,
11 owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the
12 committee in the performance of an official function
13 available to the public in compliance with the Freedom of
14 Information Act.

15 (5) The committee shall analyze the report described in
16 subsection (e) of this Section and, within 6 months after
17 receiving the report, shall make recommendations to the
18 Governor and General Assembly concerning the long-term
19 viability of a financial aid program similar in structure
20 to the pilot program.

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
22 2014."