

# HB3534



## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB3534

by Rep. Esther Golar

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/35

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. With respect to the Monetary Award Program, provides that if an applicant is eligible for a grant under the Program but is not offered a grant due to insufficient appropriations for the Program, then the applicant is entitled to State reimbursement the following fiscal year in an amount equal to the grant amount he or she would have received had he or she been offered a grant.

LRB099 07571 NHT 27698 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

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 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

1           (3) is in a financial situation that continues to  
2           warrant assistance.

3           (c) All grants shall be applicable only to tuition and  
4           necessary fee costs. The Commission shall determine the grant  
5           amount for each student, which shall not exceed the smallest of  
6           the following amounts:

7                   (1) subject to appropriation, \$5,468 for fiscal year  
8                   2009, \$5,968 for fiscal year 2010, and \$6,468 for fiscal  
9                   year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, or such lesser  
10                  amount as the Commission finds to be available, during an  
11                  academic year;

12                   (2) the amount which equals 2 semesters or 3 quarters  
13                   tuition and other necessary fees required generally by the  
14                   institution of all full-time undergraduate students; or

15                   (3) such amount as the Commission finds to be  
16                   appropriate in view of the applicant's financial  
17                   resources.

18           Subject to appropriation, the maximum grant amount for  
19           students not subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection (c)  
20           must be increased by the same percentage as any increase made  
21           by law to the maximum grant amount under subdivision (1) of  
22           this subsection (c).

23           "Tuition and other necessary fees" as used in this Section  
24           include the customary charge for instruction and use of  
25           facilities in general, and the additional fixed fees charged  
26           for specified purposes, which are required generally of

1 nongrant recipients for each academic period for which the  
2 grant applicant actually enrolls, but do not include fees  
3 payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent  
4 deposits which are refundable in whole or in part. The  
5 Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with this  
6 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of  
7 tuition and other necessary fees.

8 (d) No applicant, including those presently receiving  
9 scholarship assistance under this Act, is eligible for monetary  
10 award program consideration under this Act after receiving a  
11 baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit  
12 hours of award payments.

13 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to  
14 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with  
15 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The Commission  
16 shall notify applicants that grant assistance is contingent  
17 upon the availability of appropriated funds. If an applicant is  
18 eligible for a grant under this Section but is not offered a  
19 grant due to insufficient appropriations for the program, then  
20 the applicant is entitled to State reimbursement the following  
21 fiscal year, by filing a claim with the Commission, in an  
22 amount equal to the grant amount he or she would have received  
23 had he or she been offered a grant.

24 (e-5) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is an  
25 important purpose of the Monetary Award Program to facilitate  
26 access to college both for students who pursue postsecondary

1 education immediately following high school and for those who  
2 pursue postsecondary education later in life, particularly  
3 Illinoisans who are dislocated workers with financial need and  
4 who are seeking to improve their economic position through  
5 education. For the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years, the  
6 Commission shall give additional and specific consideration to  
7 the needs of dislocated workers with the intent of allowing  
8 applicants who are dislocated workers an opportunity to secure  
9 financial assistance even if applying later than the general  
10 pool of applicants. The Commission's consideration shall  
11 include, in determining the number of grants to be offered, an  
12 estimate of the resources needed to serve dislocated workers  
13 who apply after the Commission initially suspends award  
14 announcements for the upcoming regular academic year, but prior  
15 to the beginning of that academic year. For the purposes of  
16 this subsection (e-5), a dislocated worker is defined as in the  
17 federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

18 (f) The Commission may request appropriations for deposit  
19 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund. Monies deposited  
20 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund may be expended  
21 exclusively for one purpose: to make Monetary Award Program  
22 grants to eligible students. Amounts on deposit in the Monetary  
23 Award Program Reserve Fund may not exceed 2% of the current  
24 annual State appropriation for the Monetary Award Program.

25 The purpose of the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund is  
26 to enable the Commission each year to assure as many students

1 as possible of their eligibility for a Monetary Award Program  
2 grant and to do so before commencement of the academic year.  
3 Moneys deposited in this Reserve Fund are intended to enhance  
4 the Commission's management of the Monetary Award Program,  
5 minimizing the necessity, magnitude, and frequency of  
6 adjusting award amounts and ensuring that the annual Monetary  
7 Award Program appropriation can be fully utilized.

8 (g) The Commission shall determine the eligibility of and  
9 make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit  
10 institutions in accordance with the criteria set forth in this  
11 Section. The eligibility of applicants enrolled at such  
12 for-profit institutions shall be limited as follows:

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

16 (2) Beginning with the academic year 1998, only to  
17 eligible freshmen students, transfer students who have  
18 attained an associate degree, and students who receive a  
19 grant under paragraph (1) for the academic year 1997 and  
20 whose grants are being renewed for the academic year 1998.

21 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all  
22 eligible students.

23 (Source: P.A. 98-967, eff. 8-15-14.)