

HB3974



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB3974

by Rep. Reginald Phillips

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/35

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act with respect to the Monetary Award Program. Makes changes concerning definitions. Provides that, beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, an applicant who is a freshman dependent college student is required to achieve at least an ACT college entrance exam composite score of 18 or a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in high school in order to be eligible for a grant.

LRB099 07236 NHT 27336 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) In this Section:

9 "Dependent college student" means a traditional student
10 attending an institution of higher learning who depends on his
11 or her family for financial support. Students who are not
12 presumed to be independent college students under this
13 subsection (a) are presumed, for the purposes of this Section,
14 to be dependent on their families for financial support.

15 "Independent college student" means a non-traditional
16 student attending an institution of higher learning who does
17 not depend on his or her family for financial support. Students
18 who are orphans, 24 years of age or older, married, or in the
19 military or who have a child and contribute to more than half
20 of the child's support are presumed, for the purposes of this
21 Section, not to be dependent on their families for financial
22 support.

23 "Tuition and other necessary fees" includes the customary

1 charge for instruction and use of facilities in general and the
2 additional fixed fees charged for specified purposes, which are
3 required generally of nongrant recipients for each academic
4 period for which the grant applicant actually enrolls, but does
5 not include fees payable only once or breakage fees and other
6 contingent deposits that are refundable in whole or in part.
7 The Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with
8 this Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation
9 of tuition and other necessary fees.

10 (a-5) The Commission shall, each year, receive and consider
11 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Subject
12 to a separate appropriation for such purposes, an applicant is
13 eligible for a grant under this Section when the Commission
14 finds that the applicant:

15 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or
16 permanent resident of the United States; ~~and~~

17 (2) in the absence of grant assistance, will be
18 deterred by financial considerations from completing an
19 educational program at the qualified institution of his or
20 her choice; ~~and-~~

21 (3) beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, with
22 respect to an applicant who is a freshman dependent college
23 student, has achieved at least an ACT college entrance exam
24 composite score of 18 or a 3.0 cumulative grade point
25 average on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in high school.

26 (b) The Commission shall award renewals only upon the

1 student's application and upon the Commission's finding that
2 the applicant:

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

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

5 (3) is in a financial situation that continues to
6 warrant assistance.

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

11 (1) subject to appropriation, \$5,468 for fiscal year
12 2009, \$5,968 for fiscal year 2010, and \$6,468 for fiscal
13 year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, or such lesser
14 amount as the Commission finds to be available, during an
15 academic year;

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

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

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

1 ~~"Tuition and other necessary fees" as used in this Section~~
2 ~~include the customary charge for instruction and use of~~
3 ~~facilities in general, and the additional fixed fees charged~~
4 ~~for specified purposes, which are required generally of~~
5 ~~nongrant recipients for each academic period for which the~~
6 ~~grant applicant actually enrolls, but do not include fees~~
7 ~~payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent~~
8 ~~deposits which are refundable in whole or in part. The~~
9 ~~Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with this~~
10 ~~Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of~~
11 ~~tuition and other necessary fees.~~

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

17 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to
18 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with
19 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The Commission
20 shall notify applicants that grant assistance is contingent
21 upon the availability of appropriated funds.

22 (e-5) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is an
23 important purpose of the Monetary Award Program to facilitate
24 access to college both for students who pursue postsecondary
25 education immediately following high school and for those who
26 pursue postsecondary education later in life, particularly

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

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

23 The purpose of the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund is
24 to enable the Commission each year to assure as many students
25 as possible of their eligibility for a Monetary Award Program
26 grant and to do so before commencement of the academic year.

1 Moneys deposited in this Reserve Fund are intended to enhance
2 the Commission's management of the Monetary Award Program,
3 minimizing the necessity, magnitude, and frequency of
4 adjusting award amounts and ensuring that the annual Monetary
5 Award Program appropriation can be fully utilized.

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

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

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

19 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all
20 eligible students.

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