



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB4205

by Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.47 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to award grants to applicants who are teachers licensed under the School Code and are employed by a school district within an area designated as a poverty area by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to obtain additional course credit or an additional degree at a public university located in this State. Provides that the amount of the grant shall equal 50% of the tuition and other necessary fees required of the teacher by the public university at which the teacher enrolls. Requires grant recipients to contract with the Commission to teach for an additional 2 years in the school district in which they were employed at the time of application for the grant. Sets forth provisions concerning this commitment.

LRB099 12015 NHT 34580 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 adding Section 65.47 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.47 new)

7 Sec. 65.47. Grants to teachers to further their education.

8 (a) In this Section, "tuition and other necessary fees" has
9 the meaning ascribed to that term in Section 35 of this Act.

10 (b) The Commission shall award grants to applicants who are
11 teachers licensed under Article 21B of the School Code and are
12 employed by a school district within an area designated as a
13 poverty area by the Department of Commerce and Economic
14 Opportunity to obtain additional course credit or an additional
15 degree at a public university located in this State. The amount
16 of the grant shall equal 50% of the tuition and other necessary
17 fees required of the teacher by the public university at which
18 the teacher enrolls.

19 (c) Grant recipients under this Section are required to
20 contract with the Commission to teach for an additional 2 years
21 in the school district in which they were employed at the time
22 of application for the grant. Such commitment shall begin upon
23 the completion of the additional course credit or degree for

1 which he or she was awarded a grant and must be completed
2 within 3 years, unless extended by the Commission. A grant
3 recipient must also sign a note, payable to the Commission, for
4 the full amount of benefits awarded to him or her under this
5 Section, with interest as provided in this subsection (c),
6 subject to cancellation as provided in this Section. Completion
7 of one year of the commitment shall operate to cancel 50% of
8 the amount of benefits provided to the grant recipient. The
9 failure of a grant recipient to complete all or part of the
10 commitment shall obligate him or her to proportionately repay
11 the amount of benefits provided, plus 5% interest on that
12 amount.

13 (d) If a grant recipient under this Section fails to cancel
14 his or her commitment as provided in this Section, the
15 Commission shall cause an appropriate action to be commenced on
16 the note signed by the teacher, unless the failure to cancel
17 the commitment was occasioned by the death or total and
18 permanent disability of the grant recipient.

19 (e) The Commission may adopt any rules necessary to
20 implement this Section.