

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 65.100 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.100)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on October 1, 2024)

8 Sec. 65.100. AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program.

9 (a) The General Assembly makes all of the following  
10 findings:

11 (1) Both access and affordability are important  
12 aspects of the Illinois Public Agenda for College and  
13 Career Success report.

14 (2) This State is in the top quartile with respect to  
15 the percentage of family income needed to pay for college.

16 (3) Research suggests that as loan amounts increase,  
17 rather than an increase in grant amounts, the probability  
18 of college attendance decreases.

19 (4) There is further research indicating that  
20 socioeconomic status may affect the willingness of  
21 students to use loans to attend college.

22 (5) Strategic use of tuition discounting can decrease  
23 the amount of loans that students must use to pay for

1 tuition.

2 (6) A modest, individually tailored tuition discount  
3 can make the difference in a student choosing to attend  
4 college and enhance college access for low-income and  
5 middle-income families.

6 (7) Even if the federally calculated financial need for  
7 college attendance is met, the federally determined  
8 Expected Family Contribution can still be a daunting  
9 amount.

10 (8) This State is the second largest exporter of  
11 students in the country.

12 (9) When talented Illinois students attend  
13 universities in this State, the State and those  
14 universities benefit.

15 (10) State universities in other states have adopted  
16 pricing and incentives that allow many Illinois residents  
17 to pay less to attend an out-of-state university than to  
18 remain in this State for college.

19 (11) Supporting Illinois student attendance at  
20 Illinois public universities can assist in State efforts to  
21 maintain and educate a highly trained workforce.

22 (12) Modest tuition discounts that are individually  
23 targeted and tailored can result in enhanced revenue for  
24 public universities.

25 (13) By increasing a public university's capacity to  
26 strategically use tuition discounting, the public

1 university will be capable of creating enhanced tuition  
2 revenue by increasing enrollment yields.

3 (b) In this Section:

4 "Eligible applicant" means a student from any high school  
5 in this State, whether or not recognized by the State Board of  
6 Education, who is engaged in a program of study that in due  
7 course will be completed by the end of the school year and who  
8 meets all of the qualifications and requirements under this  
9 Section.

10 "Tuition and other necessary fees" includes the customary  
11 charge for instruction and use of facilities in general and the  
12 additional fixed fees charged for specified purposes that are  
13 required generally of non-grant recipients for each academic  
14 period for which the grant applicant actually enrolls, but does  
15 not include fees payable only once or breakage fees and other  
16 contingent deposits that are refundable in whole or in part.  
17 The Commission may adopt, by rule not inconsistent with this  
18 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of  
19 tuition and other necessary fees.

20 (c) Beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, each public  
21 university may establish a merit-based scholarship pilot  
22 program known as the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program. Each year,  
23 the Commission shall receive and consider applications from  
24 public universities under this Section. Subject to  
25 appropriation and any tuition waiver limitation established by  
26 the Board of Higher Education, a public university campus may

1 award a grant to a student under this Section if it finds that  
2 the applicant meets all of the following criteria:

3 (1) He or she is a resident of this State and a citizen  
4 or eligible noncitizen of the United States.

5 (2) He or she files a Free Application for Federal  
6 Student Aid and demonstrates financial need with a  
7 household income no greater than 6 times the poverty  
8 guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by  
9 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the  
10 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

11 (3) He or she meets the minimum cumulative grade point  
12 average or ACT or SAT college admissions test score, as  
13 determined by the public university campus.

14 (4) He or she is enrolled in a public university as an  
15 undergraduate student on a full-time basis.

16 (5) He or she has not yet received a baccalaureate  
17 degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours.

18 (6) He or she is not incarcerated.

19 (7) He or she is not in default on any student loan or  
20 does not owe a refund or repayment on any State or federal  
21 grant or scholarship.

22 (8) Any other reasonable criteria, as determined by the  
23 public university campus.

24 (d) Each public university campus shall determine grant  
25 renewal criteria consistent with the requirements under this  
26 Section.

1           (e) Each participating public university campus shall post  
2 on its Internet website criteria and eligibility requirements  
3 for receiving awards that use funds under this Section that  
4 include ~~includes~~ a range in the sizes of these individual  
5 awards. The criteria and amounts must also be reported to the  
6 Commission and the Board of Higher Education, who shall post  
7 the information on their respective Internet websites.

8           (f) After enactment of an appropriation for this Program,  
9 the Commission shall determine an allocation of funds to each  
10 public university in an amount proportionate to the number of  
11 undergraduate students who are residents of this State and  
12 citizens or eligible noncitizens of the United States and who  
13 were enrolled at each public university campus in the previous  
14 academic year. All applications must be made to the Commission  
15 on or before a date determined by the Commission and on forms  
16 that the Commission shall provide to each public university  
17 campus. The form of the application and the information  
18 required shall be determined by the Commission and shall  
19 include, without limitation, the total public university  
20 campus funds used to match funds received from the Commission  
21 in the previous academic year under this Section, if any, the  
22 total enrollment of undergraduate students who are residents of  
23 this State from the previous academic year, and any supporting  
24 documents as the Commission deems necessary. Each public  
25 university campus shall match the amount of funds received by  
26 the Commission with financial aid for eligible students.

1           A public university campus is not required to claim its  
2           entire allocation. The Commission shall make available to all  
3           public universities, on a date determined by the Commission,  
4           any unclaimed funds and the funds must be made available to  
5           those public university campuses in the proportion determined  
6           under this subsection (f), excluding from the calculation those  
7           public university campuses not claiming their full  
8           allocations.

9           Each public university campus may determine the award  
10          amounts for eligible students on an individual or broad basis,  
11          but, subject to renewal eligibility, each renewed award may not  
12          be less than the amount awarded to the eligible student in his  
13          or her first year attending the public university campus.  
14          Notwithstanding this limitation, a renewal grant may be reduced  
15          due to changes in the student's cost of attendance, including,  
16          but not limited to, if a student reduces the number of credit  
17          hours in which he or she is enrolled, but remains a full-time  
18          student, or switches to a course of study with a lower tuition  
19          rate.

20          An eligible applicant awarded grant assistance under this  
21          Section is eligible to receive other financial aid. Total grant  
22          aid to the student from all sources may not exceed the total  
23          cost of attendance at the public university campus.

24          (g) All money allocated to a public university campus under  
25          this Section may be used only for financial aid purposes for  
26          students attending the public university campus during the

1 academic year, not including summer terms. Notwithstanding any  
2 other provision of law to the contrary, any ~~Any~~ funds received  
3 by a public university campus under this Section that are not  
4 granted to students in the academic year for which the funds  
5 are received may be retained by the public university campus  
6 for expenditure on students participating in the Program or  
7 students eligible to participate in the Program ~~must be~~  
8 ~~refunded to the Commission before any new funds are received by~~  
9 ~~the public university campus for the next academic year.~~

10 (h) Each public university campus that establishes a  
11 Program under this Section must annually report to the  
12 Commission, on or before a date determined by the Commission,  
13 the number of undergraduate students enrolled at that campus  
14 who are residents of this State.

15 (i) Each public university campus must report to the  
16 Commission the total non-loan financial aid amount given by the  
17 public university campus to undergraduate students in fiscal  
18 year 2018. To be eligible to receive funds under the Program, a  
19 public university campus may not decrease the total amount of  
20 non-loan financial aid for undergraduate students to an amount  
21 lower than the total non-loan financial aid amount given by the  
22 public university campus to undergraduate students in fiscal  
23 year 2018, not including any funds received from the Commission  
24 under this Section or any funds used to match grant awards  
25 under this Section.

26 (j) On or before a date determined by the Commission, each

1 public university campus that participates in the Program under  
2 this Section shall annually submit a report to the Commission  
3 with all of the following information:

4 (1) The Program's impact on tuition revenue and  
5 enrollment goals and increase in access and affordability  
6 at the public university campus.

7 (2) Total funds received by the public university  
8 campus under the Program.

9 (3) Total non-loan financial aid awarded to  
10 undergraduate students attending the public university  
11 campus.

12 (4) Total amount of funds matched by the public  
13 university campus.

14 (5) Total amount of claimed and unexpended funds  
15 retained ~~refunded to the Commission~~ by the public  
16 university campus.

17 (6) The percentage of total financial aid distributed  
18 under the Program by the public university campus.

19 (7) The total number of students receiving grants from  
20 the public university campus under the Program and those  
21 students' grade level, race, gender, income level, family  
22 size, Monetary Award Program eligibility, Pell Grant  
23 eligibility, and zip code of residence and the amount of  
24 each grant award. This information shall include unit  
25 record data on those students regarding variables  
26 associated with the parameters of the public university's



1           Program, including, but not limited to, a student's ACT or  
2           SAT college admissions test score, high school or  
3           university cumulative grade point average, or program of  
4           study.

5           On or before October 1, 2020 and annually on or before  
6           October 1 thereafter, the Commission shall submit a report with  
7           the findings under this subsection (j) and any other  
8           information regarding the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program to (i)  
9           the Governor, (ii) the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
10          (iii) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, (iv)  
11          the President of the Senate, and (v) the Minority Leader of the  
12          Senate. The reports to the General Assembly shall be filed with  
13          the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of  
14          the Senate in electronic form only, in the manner that the  
15          Clerk and the Secretary shall direct. The Commission's report  
16          may not disaggregate data to a level that may disclose  
17          personally identifying information of individual students.

18          The sharing and reporting of student data under this  
19          subsection (j) must be in accordance with the requirements  
20          under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of  
21          1974 and the Illinois School Student Records Act. All parties  
22          must preserve the confidentiality of the information as  
23          required by law. The names of the grant recipients under this  
24          Section are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of  
25          Information Act.

26          Public university campuses that fail to submit a report

1 under this subsection (j) or that fail to adhere to any other  
2 requirements under this Section may not be eligible for  
3 distribution of funds under the Program for the next academic  
4 year, but may be eligible for distribution of funds for each  
5 academic year thereafter.

6 (k) The Commission shall adopt rules to implement this  
7 Section.

8 (l) This Section is repealed on October 1, 2024.

9 (Source: P.A. 100-587, eff. 6-4-18; 100-1015, eff. 8-21-18;  
10 revised 10-22-18.)

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
12 becoming law.