

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
5 adding Section 12-4.13b as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.13b new)

7 Sec. 12-4.13b. College student eligibility for
8 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits.

9 (a) For the purposes of Section 273.5(b) (11) (ii) of Title 7
10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, an educational program
11 offered at a community college under the Carl D. Perkins Career
12 and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Public Law
13 109-270) that could be a component of a SNAP Employment and
14 Training (E&T) program, as identified by the Department of
15 Human Services, shall be considered an employment and training
16 program under Section 273.7 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal
17 Regulations, unless prohibited by federal law.

18 (b) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with
19 representatives of the Illinois Community College Board, ISAC,
20 the Illinois Workforce Investment Board, and advocates for
21 students and SNAP recipients, shall establish a protocol to
22 identify and verify all potential exemptions to the eligibility
23 rule described in Section 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of

1 Federal Regulations, and to identify and verify a student's
2 participation in educational programs, including, but not
3 limited to, self-initiated placements, that would exempt a
4 student from the eligibility rule described in Section 273.5(a)
5 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. To the extent
6 possible, this consultation shall take place through existing
7 workgroups convened by the Department of Human Services.

8 (c) If the United States Department of Agriculture requires
9 federal approval of the exemption designation established
10 pursuant to subsection (a) and the protocol established
11 pursuant to subsection (b), the Department of Human Services
12 shall seek and obtain that approval before publishing the
13 guidance or regulation required by subsection (e).

14 (d) (1) This Section does not require the Department of
15 Human Services to offer a particular component, support
16 services, or workers' compensation to a college student found
17 eligible for an exemption pursuant to this Section.

18 (2) This Section does not restrict or require the use of
19 federal funds for the financing of SNAP E&T programs.

20 (3) This Section does not require an institution of higher
21 education to verify eligibility for SNAP.

22 (e) The Department of Human Services shall adopt any rules
23 necessary to implement the provisions of subsections (a), (b),
24 (c), and (d) on or before January 1, 2018.

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
26 becoming law.