



96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

HB2329

Introduced 2/18/2009, by Rep. Dave Winters

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 105/5.719 new
110 ILCS 947/65.85 new

Amends the School Code and the State Finance Act. Creates the Early Graduation Scholarship Program, to be implemented and administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission on or before September 1, 2010, in conjunction with the State Board of Education. Requires each school district that provides instruction in grades 9 through 12 in this State to participate in and promote to students the program. Provides that participating full-time students who graduate from public high school at least one year early shall receive a scholarship in an amount not to exceed two-thirds of the foundation level of support amount specified in the State aid formula provisions of the School Code or the actual cost of tuition, books, and fees, whichever is less, in both the first academic year of postsecondary instruction and the second academic year of postsecondary instruction, to be used to pay all or a portion of the tuition, books, and fees charged at an institution of higher learning in this State for a maximum of 2 academic years. Also provides for scholarships for full-time students who graduate one semester early and part-time students. Contains provisions concerning eligibility, funding, including the creation of the Early Graduation Scholarship Fund, and submission of an annual report. Repeals these provisions on July 1, 2017.

LRB096 05781 NHT 15856 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

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 State Finance Act is amended by adding
5 Section 5.719 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.719 new)

7 Sec. 5.719. The Early Graduation Scholarship Fund.

8 Section 10. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
9 amended by adding Section 65.85 as follows:

10 (110 ILCS 947/65.85 new)

11 (Section scheduled to be repealed on July 1, 2017)

12 Sec. 65.85. Early Graduation Scholarship Program.

13 (a) There is created the Early Graduation Scholarship
14 Program. Each school district that provides instruction in
15 grades 9 through 12 in this State shall participate in and
16 promote to students the Early Graduation Scholarship Program.

17 (b) The Commission shall develop application forms,
18 procedures, and deadlines to implement and administer the Early
19 Graduation Scholarship Program on or before September 1, 2010,
20 in conjunction with the State Board of Education, and shall
21 select eligible students each year for participation in the

1 Early Graduation Scholarship Program. The school district that
2 the student attends shall notify the State Board of Education
3 and the Commission if the student graduates at least one
4 semester before the student's scheduled graduation date.

5 (c) Participating full-time students who graduate from
6 public high school at least one year early shall receive a
7 scholarship in an amount not to exceed two-thirds of the
8 foundation level of support amount specified under subsection
9 (B) of Section 18-8.05 of the School Code or the actual cost of
10 tuition, books, and fees, whichever is less, in both the first
11 academic year of postsecondary instruction and the second
12 academic year of postsecondary instruction, to be used to pay
13 all or a portion of the tuition, books, and fees charged at a
14 qualified institution for a maximum of 2 academic years, which
15 must be completed within 36 months after the student's actual
16 graduation date from high school. The amount of a scholarship
17 grant awarded to a participating part-time student enrolled at
18 least half-time for the academic year shall be prorated in
19 accordance with the part-time status of the student.

20 Participating full-time students who graduate from public
21 high school one semester early shall receive a scholarship
22 grant in an amount not to exceed two-thirds of the foundation
23 level of support amount specified under subsection (B) of
24 Section 18-8.05 of the School Code divided by 2 or the actual
25 cost of tuition, books, and fees, whichever is less, in both
26 the first academic year of postsecondary instruction and the

1 second academic year of postsecondary instruction, to be used
2 to pay all or a portion of the tuition, books, and fees charged
3 at a qualified institution for a maximum of 2 academic years,
4 which must be completed within 36 months after the student's
5 actual graduation date from high school. The amount of a
6 scholarship grant awarded to a participating part-time student
7 enrolled at least half-time for the academic year shall be
8 prorated in accordance with the part-time status of the
9 student.

10 (d) A student who provides satisfactory proof to the
11 Commission that the student has met all of the following
12 criteria is eligible to submit an application for consideration
13 for a scholarship under the Early Graduation Scholarship
14 Program:

15 (1) The student has graduated from a public high school
16 in this State at least one semester earlier than the
17 student's class is scheduled to graduate.

18 (2) The student has achieved a passing score on each
19 component of the Prairie State Achievement Examination
20 under Section 2-3.64 of the School Code.

21 (3) The student is currently a resident of this State
22 and has been a resident of this State for at least the past
23 12 months.

24 (4) The student submits a statement from the qualified
25 institution that details the cost of tuition, books, and
26 fees for that student.

1 (5) The student has completed and submitted a free
2 application for federal student aid.

3 (6) The student or the student's parent or legal
4 guardian signs a promissory note for reimbursement
5 pursuant to subsection (j) of this Section.

6 (e) The school district from which the student graduated
7 shall include the student who graduates early in the school
8 district's student count until the student's class is scheduled
9 to graduate and shall continue to receive per pupil funding
10 from the State under Section 18-8.05 of the School Code minus
11 an amount equal to two-thirds of that per pupil funding for a
12 student who graduates at least one year early or minus an
13 amount equal to two-thirds of that per pupil funding divided by
14 2 for a student who graduates one semester early, whichever is
15 applicable, until the student's class is scheduled to graduate.
16 The school district shall place the per pupil funding received
17 in the school district's maintenance and operations fund.

18 (f) The State Board of Education shall deposit an amount
19 equal to two-thirds of the per pupil funding under subsection
20 (e) of this Section for a student who graduates at least one
21 year early or an amount equal to two-thirds of the per pupil
22 funding under subsection (e) of this Section divided by 2 for a
23 student who graduates one semester early, whichever is
24 applicable, into the Early Graduation Scholarship Fund
25 established by this Section.

26 (g) The Commission shall make scholarship awards from funds

1 appropriated from the Early Graduation Scholarship Fund for the
2 payment of tuition, books, and fees at qualified institutions
3 to students who are selected to participate in the Early
4 Graduation Scholarship Program upon verification of admission,
5 enrollment, and certification of the cost of each student's
6 tuition and fees by the qualified institutions.

7 (h) If the amount of money available for scholarships under
8 this Section in any fiscal year is insufficient to provide
9 scholarships to all eligible applicants, the Commission shall
10 award scholarships to eligible students in the order in which
11 the applications were received by the Commission, except that
12 priority shall be given to eligible students who received a
13 scholarship in the previous fiscal year and who are still in
14 good academic standing at the same qualified institution or who
15 transferred to a different qualified institution but remain in
16 good academic standing at the previous qualified institution.
17 The Commission shall maintain a waiting list for all other
18 applicants.

19 (i) A qualified institution shall notify the Commission if
20 a student who has received a scholarship under this Section is
21 no longer in good academic standing at the qualified
22 institution or is no longer enrolled at the qualified
23 institution.

24 (j) Not later than 36 months after the student's actual
25 graduation date from high school, the student or the qualified
26 institution, whichever is applicable, shall reimburse the

1 Early Graduation Scholarship Fund for any scholarship amount
2 received pursuant to subsection (c) of this Section if the
3 student is no longer in good academic standing at the qualified
4 institution or is no longer enrolled at the qualified
5 institution. The Commission may waive the reimbursement
6 requirements of this subsection (j) for good cause shown. A
7 student shall provide proof that the student completed the
8 first year in good academic standing from the qualified
9 institution to the Commission before receiving money for the
10 second year from the Early Graduation Scholarship Fund.

11 (k) A student who receives a scholarship under this Section
12 shall be allowed, at no additional cost except for fees charged
13 to all students, to both:

14 (1) participate in extracurricular activities in
15 accordance with Illinois High School Association rules
16 until the student's high school class is scheduled to
17 graduate; and

18 (2) participate in the student's high school class
19 graduation ceremonies.

20 (l) The Early Graduation Scholarship Fund is created as a
21 special fund in the State treasury. The Fund shall consist of
22 money deposited pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section and
23 all repayments that are received pursuant to subsection (j) of
24 this Section. All money in the Fund shall be used, subject to
25 appropriation, by the Commission for the purposes of this
26 Section, including using up to 5% of the money in the Fund for

1 administrative costs and hiring up to 2 full-time equivalent
2 positions for the implementation and administration of the
3 Early Graduation Scholarship Program.

4 (m) The Commission shall submit an annual report by
5 December 1 to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the
6 Secretary of State. The report shall contain at least the
7 following:

8 (1) The number of students who graduated at least one
9 year early and the number of students who graduated at
10 least one semester early for each year of implementation of
11 the Early Graduation Scholarship Program, by school
12 district.

13 (2) The number of scholarships provided pursuant to
14 this Section.

15 (3) The average amount per scholarship provided
16 pursuant to this Section.

17 (4) The balance in the Early Graduation Scholarship
18 Fund.

19 (5) The number of students using a scholarship to
20 attend a qualified institution.

21 (6) A description of how the Commission expended money
22 for administrative costs of the Early Graduation
23 Scholarship Program pursuant to subsection (1) of this
24 Section.

25 (n) This Section is repealed on July 1, 2017.