



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

SB1592

Introduced 2/13/2013, by Sen. Chapin Rose

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/35
110 ILCS 947/38

Amends the monetary award program provisions of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that if a recipient of a grant is not permitted to continue attending a higher education institution because he or she is not earning the minimum grades needed to continue to attend the institution, then that person may not attend another institution the following academic year if he or she wants to receive a renewal of the grant. Provides that after one academic year of non-attendance has passed, the person is entitled to renewal of the grant upon enrolling at another institution; makes related changes. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to request that the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators make recommendations on possible changes to how the Commission determines the number of grants to be offered and to whom they are offered. Requires an institution to have a comprehensive advising program for students who are recipients of grants, and requires grant recipients to participate in an institution's advising program as a condition of receiving a grant; makes related changes. Requires institutions to provide specified information concerning grant recipients to the Commission, if requested, to demonstrate the value of the program and determine where improvements could be made; makes related changes.

LRB098 07802 NHT 37884 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 Sections 35 and 38 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/35)

7 Sec. 35. Monetary award program.

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

13 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or
14 permanent resident of the United States; and

15 (2) in the absence of grant assistance, will be
16 deterred by financial considerations from completing an
17 educational program at the qualified institution of his or
18 her choice.

19 (b) The Commission shall award renewals only upon the
20 student's application and upon the Commission's finding that
21 the applicant:

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

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

1 (3) is in a financial situation that continues to
2 warrant assistance.

3 However, if a recipient of a grant under this Section is not
4 permitted to continue attending an institution because he or
5 she is not earning the minimum grades needed to continue to
6 attend the institution, then that person may not attend another
7 institution the following academic year if he or she wants to
8 receive a renewal of the grant. During this period of
9 non-attendance, the person shall be deemed to have remained a
10 student in good standing for grant renewal purposes, and, after
11 one academic year of non-attendance has passed, he or she is
12 entitled to renewal of the grant upon enrolling at another
13 institution if he or she meets the other qualifications for
14 renewal. This other institution must check on the status of
15 such students as part of the monetary award program's audit
16 process.

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

21 (1) subject to appropriation, \$5,468 for fiscal year
22 2009, \$5,968 for fiscal year 2010, and \$6,468 for fiscal
23 year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, or such lesser
24 amount as the Commission finds to be available, during an
25 academic year;

26 (2) the amount which equals 2 semesters or 3 quarters

1 tuition and other necessary fees required generally by the
2 institution of all full-time undergraduate students; or

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

6 Subject to appropriation, the maximum grant amount for
7 students not subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection (c)
8 must be increased by the same percentage as any increase made
9 by law to the maximum grant amount under subdivision (1) of
10 this subsection (c).

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

22 (d) No applicant, including those presently receiving
23 scholarship assistance under this Act, is eligible for monetary
24 award program consideration under this Act after receiving a
25 baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit
26 hours of award payments.

1 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to
2 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with
3 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The Commission
4 shall notify applicants that grant assistance is contingent
5 upon the availability of appropriated funds.

6 The Commission shall request that the Illinois Association
7 of Student Financial Aid Administrators make recommendations
8 on possible changes to how the Commission determines the number
9 of grants to be offered and to whom they are offered.

10 (f) The Commission may request appropriations for deposit
11 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund. Monies deposited
12 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund may be expended
13 exclusively for one purpose: to make Monetary Award Program
14 grants to eligible students. Amounts on deposit in the Monetary
15 Award Program Reserve Fund may not exceed 2% of the current
16 annual State appropriation for the Monetary Award Program.

17 The purpose of the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund is
18 to enable the Commission each year to assure as many students
19 as possible of their eligibility for a Monetary Award Program
20 grant and to do so before commencement of the academic year.
21 Moneys deposited in this Reserve Fund are intended to enhance
22 the Commission's management of the Monetary Award Program,
23 minimizing the necessity, magnitude, and frequency of
24 adjusting award amounts and ensuring that the annual Monetary
25 Award Program appropriation can be fully utilized.

26 (g) The Commission shall determine the eligibility of and

1 make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit
2 institutions in accordance with the criteria set forth in this
3 Section. The eligibility of applicants enrolled at such
4 for-profit institutions shall be limited as follows:

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

8 (2) Beginning with the academic year 1998, only to
9 eligible freshmen students, transfer students who have
10 attained an associate degree, and students who receive a
11 grant under paragraph (1) for the academic year 1997 and
12 whose grants are being renewed for the academic year 1998.

13 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all
14 eligible students.

15 (h) An institution must have a comprehensive advising
16 program for students who are recipients of grants under this
17 Section. Grant recipients shall participate in an
18 institution's advising program as a condition of receiving a
19 grant. The Commission shall establish a committee to develop
20 the parameters and framework for these advising programs, which
21 an institution may tailor to the institution's and its
22 students' particular needs.

23 (Source: P.A. 95-917, eff. 8-26-08.)

24 (110 ILCS 947/38)

25 Sec. 38. Monetary award program accountability.

1 (a) The Illinois Student Assistance Commission is directed
2 to assess the educational persistence of monetary award program
3 recipients. An assessment under this Section shall include an
4 analysis of such factors as undergraduate educational goals,
5 chosen field of study, retention rates, and expected time to
6 complete a degree. The assessment also shall include an
7 analysis of the academic success of monetary award program
8 recipients through a review of measures that are typically
9 associated with academic success, such as grade point average,
10 satisfactory academic progress, and credit hours earned. Each
11 analysis should take into consideration student class level,
12 dependency types, and the type of higher education institution
13 at which each monetary award program recipient is enrolled. The
14 Commission shall report its findings to the General Assembly
15 and the Board of Higher Education by February 1, 1999 and at
16 least every 2 years thereafter.

17 (b) To demonstrate the value of the monetary award program
18 and determine where improvements could be made, institutions
19 shall provide the following information concerning grant
20 recipients to the Commission if requested:

21 (1) Completion and graduation rates.

22 (2) Courses attempted versus courses completed.

23 (3) The number of remedial courses undertaken, the
24 names of these courses, and the success rate of these
25 courses.

26 (4) Chosen fields of study.

1 (5) The receipt of institutional financial aid, how
2 much of that aid is merit-only aid, how much is need-based
3 aid, and how this aid dovetails with State and federal
4 financial aid.

5 The Commission may consult with the Illinois Association of
6 Student Financial Aid Administrators to develop guidelines for
7 the information to be provided under this subsection (b).

8 Each year, the Commission may compile the information
9 provided under this subsection (b) in a report to be submitted
10 to the General Assembly and the Governor.

11 (Source: P.A. 90-486, eff. 8-17-97; 90-488, eff. 8-17-97.)