



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4059

Introduced 5/20/2025, by Rep. Nicholas K. Smith

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.86 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Creates a legislative scholarship task force to receive and consider applications for scholarship assistance. Requires the task force to receive and consider nominations for scholarship assistance, with a total of 8 scholarships per representative district to be awarded each year. Provides that a nominee is eligible for a scholarship if the task force finds that the nominee meets certain qualifications, including that he or she is a resident of the representative district for which a scholarship is to be awarded and that he or she is enrolled or accepted for enrollment at a public university in this State. Provides that legislative scholarships are good for a period of not more than one year while enrolled for residence credit, are applicable toward 2 semesters of enrollment within an academic year, and exempt the holder from the payment of tuition and fees. Sets forth provisions concerning application for a scholarship and renewals.

LRB104 12731 LNS 23736 b

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 65.86 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.86 new)

7 Sec. 65.86. Legislative scholarships.

8 (a) A legislative scholarship task force is created to  
9 receive and consider applications for scholarship assistance  
10 under this Section. The task force shall consist of the  
11 following members:

12 (1) Five members of the House of Representatives  
13 appointed by the Speaker of the House.

14 (2) Five members of the House of Representatives  
15 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House.

16 (3) Five members of the Senate appointed by the  
17 President of the Senate.

18 (4) Five members of the Senate appointed by the  
19 Minority Leader of the Senate.

20 Members of the task force shall serve without  
21 compensation. The Commission shall provide administrative and  
22 other support to the task force.

23 (b) Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, the

1 legislative scholarship task force shall, each year, receive  
2 and consider nominations for scholarship assistance under this  
3 Section. A total of 8 scholarships per representative district  
4 shall be awarded each year. A nominee is eligible for a  
5 scholarship under this Section if the task force finds that  
6 the nominee meets all of the following qualifications:

7 (1) He or she is a United States citizen or eligible  
8 noncitizen.

9 (2) He or she is a resident of the representative  
10 district for which a scholarship is to be awarded.

11 (3) He or she is enrolled or accepted for enrollment  
12 at a public university in this State.

13 (c) Recipients of legislative scholarships shall be  
14 selected from among nominees who are qualified pursuant to  
15 subsection (b) of this Section and who have filled out a  
16 scholarship application. All applications for scholarship  
17 assistance to be awarded under this Section shall be made to  
18 the legislative scholarship task force in a form as set forth  
19 by the task force. The form of application and the information  
20 required to be set forth in the application shall be  
21 determined by the task force, and the task force shall require  
22 eligible applicants to submit with their applications such  
23 supporting documents as the task force deems necessary.

24 (d) A legislative scholarship is good for a period of not  
25 more than one year while enrolled for residence credit.  
26 Scholarships are applicable toward 2 semesters of enrollment

1 within an academic year and shall exempt the holder from the  
2 payment of tuition or any matriculation, graduation, activity,  
3 term, or incidental fee, except any portion of a multipurpose  
4 fee that is used for a purpose for which exemption is not  
5 granted under this Section. Exemption may not be granted from  
6 any other fees, including book rental fees, service fees,  
7 laboratory fees, supply fees, union building fees, hospital  
8 and medical insurance fees, and any fees established for the  
9 operation and maintenance of buildings, the income of which is  
10 pledged to the payment of interest and principal on bonds  
11 issued by the governing board of a university. Any student who  
12 has been or is to be awarded a scholarship shall be reimbursed  
13 by the appropriate university for any fees that he or she has  
14 paid and for which exemption is granted under this Section if  
15 application for such reimbursement is made within 2 months  
16 following the academic term for which the fees were paid.

17 (e) Renewals may be given to previous recipients of  
18 assistance under this Section, provided they continue to  
19 maintain eligibility and maintain satisfactory academic  
20 progress as determined by the university at which they enroll.  
21 A recipient may receive up to 8 semesters of scholarship  
22 assistance under this Section.