



Rep. Sharon Chung

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10400HB4453ham001

LRB104 17492 LNS 34638 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 4453

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 4453 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by changing Section 65.15 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.15)

7 Sec. 65.15. Special education teacher scholarships.

8 (a) There shall be awarded annually 250 scholarships to
9 persons qualifying as members of any of the following groups:

10 (1) Students who are otherwise qualified to receive a
11 scholarship as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this
12 Section and who make application to the Commission for
13 such scholarship and agree to take courses that will
14 prepare the student for the teaching of children described
15 in Section 14-1 of the School Code.

16 (2) Persons holding a valid certificate issued under

1 the laws relating to the certification of teachers and who
2 make application to the Commission for such scholarship
3 and agree to take courses that will prepare them for the
4 teaching of children described in Section 14-1 of the
5 School Code.

6 (3) Persons who (A) have graduated high school; (B)
7 have not been certified as a teacher; and (C) make
8 application to the Commission for such scholarship and
9 agree to take courses that will prepare them for the
10 teaching of children described in Section 14-1 of the
11 School Code.

12 Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be issued
13 pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Commission;
14 provided that no rule or regulation promulgated by the State
15 Board of Education prior to the effective date of this
16 amendatory Act of 1993 pursuant to the exercise of any right,
17 power, duty, responsibility or matter of pending business
18 transferred from the State Board of Education to the
19 Commission under this Section shall be affected thereby, and
20 all such rules and regulations shall become the rules and
21 regulations of the Commission until modified or changed by the
22 Commission in accordance with law.

23 For the purposes of this Section scholarships awarded each
24 school year shall be deemed to be issued on July 1 of the year
25 prior to the start of the postsecondary school term and all
26 calculations for use of the scholarship shall be based on such

1 date. Each scholarship shall entitle its holder to exemption
2 from fees as provided in subsection (a) of Section 65.40 while
3 enrolled in a special education program of teacher education,
4 for a period of not more than 4 calendar years and shall be
5 available for use at any time during such period of study
6 except as provided in subsection (b) of Section 65.40.

7 Scholarships issued to holders of a valid certificate
8 issued under the laws relating to the certification of
9 teachers as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection may
10 also entitle the holder thereof to a program of teacher
11 education that will prepare the student for the teaching of
12 children described in Section 14-1 of the School Code at the
13 graduate level.

14 (b) The principal, or his or her designee, of an approved
15 high school shall certify to the Commission, for students who
16 are Illinois residents and are completing an application, that
17 the students ranked scholastically in the upper one-half of
18 their graduating class at the end of the sixth semester.

19 (c) Each holder of a scholarship must furnish proof to the
20 Commission, in such form and at such intervals as the
21 Commission prescribes, of the holder's continued enrollment in
22 a teacher education program qualifying the holder for the
23 scholarship. Any holder of a scholarship who fails to register
24 in a special education program of teacher education at the
25 university within 10 days after the commencement of the term,
26 quarter or semester immediately following the receipt of the

1 scholarship or who, having registered, withdraws from the
2 university or transfers out of teacher education, shall
3 thereupon forfeit the right to use it and it may be granted to
4 the person having the next highest rank as shown on the list
5 held by the Commission. If the person having the next highest
6 rank, within 10 days after notification thereof by the
7 Commission, fails to register at any such university in a
8 special education program of teacher education, or who, having
9 registered, withdraws from the university or transfers out of
10 teacher education, the scholarship may then be granted to the
11 person shown on the list as having the rank next below such
12 person.

13 (d) Any person who has accepted a scholarship under the
14 preceding subsections of this Section must, within one year
15 after graduation from or termination of enrollment in a
16 teacher education program, begin teaching at a nonprofit
17 Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or elementary
18 or secondary school for a period of at least 2 of the 5 years
19 immediately following that graduation or termination,
20 excluding, however, from the computation of that 5 year period
21 (i) any time up to 3 years spent in the military service,
22 whether such service occurs before or after the person
23 graduates; (ii) any time that person is enrolled full-time in
24 an academic program related to the field of teaching leading
25 to a graduate or postgraduate degree; (iii) the time that
26 person is a person with a temporary total disability for a

1 period of time not to exceed 3 years, as established by the
2 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) the time that
3 person is seeking and unable to find full time employment as a
4 teacher at an Illinois public, private, or parochial school;
5 (v) the time that person is taking additional courses, on at
6 least a half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a
7 teacher in Illinois; or (vi) the time that person is
8 fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other
9 programs administered by the Commission if he or she cannot
10 concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a period of
11 time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.

12 A person who has accepted a scholarship under the
13 preceding subsections of this Section and who has been unable
14 to fulfill the teaching requirements of this Section may
15 receive a deferment from the obligation of repayment under
16 this subsection (d) under guidelines established by the
17 Commission; provided that no guideline established for any
18 such purpose by the State Board of Education prior to the
19 effective date of this amendatory Act of 1993 shall be
20 affected by the transfer to the Commission of the
21 responsibility for administering and implementing the
22 provisions of this Section, and all guidelines so established
23 shall become the guidelines of the Commission until modified
24 or changed by the Commission.

25 Any such person who fails to fulfill this teaching
26 requirement shall pay to the Commission the amount of tuition

1 waived by virtue of his or her acceptance of the scholarship,
2 together with interest at 5% per year on that amount. However,
3 this obligation to repay the amount of tuition waived plus
4 interest does not apply when the failure to fulfill the
5 teaching requirement results from the death or adjudication as
6 a person under legal disability of the person holding the
7 scholarship, and no claim for repayment may be filed against
8 the estate of such a decedent or person under legal
9 disability. If a recipient who enters into repayment under
10 this paragraph subsequently, within 5 years of entering
11 repayment, begins to teach at a school meeting the description
12 under this subsection (d), the Commission may reduce the
13 amount owed by the recipient in proportion to the amount of the
14 teaching obligation completed. Payments received by the
15 Commission under this subsection (d) shall be remitted to the
16 State Treasurer for deposit in the General Revenue Fund. Each
17 person receiving a scholarship shall be provided with a
18 description of the provisions of this subsection (d) at the
19 time he or she qualifies for the benefits of such a
20 scholarship.

21 (e) This Section is basically the same as Sections 30-1,
22 30-2, 30-3, and 30-4a of the School Code, which are repealed by
23 this amendatory Act of 1993, and shall be construed as a
24 continuation of the teacher scholarship program established by
25 that prior law, and not as a new or different teacher
26 scholarship program. The State Board of Education shall

1 transfer to the Commission, as the successor to the State
2 Board of Education for all purposes of administering and
3 implementing the provisions of this Section, all books,
4 accounts, records, papers, documents, contracts, agreements,
5 and pending business in any way relating to the teacher
6 scholarship program continued under this Section; and all
7 scholarships at any time awarded under that program by, and
8 all applications for any such scholarships at any time made
9 to, the State Board of Education shall be unaffected by the
10 transfer to the Commission of all responsibility for the
11 administration and implementation of the teacher scholarship
12 program continued under this Section. The State Board of
13 Education shall furnish to the Commission such other
14 information as the Commission may request to assist it in
15 administering this Section.

16 (f) Beginning July 1, 2026, funds for the Special
17 Education Teacher Tuition (SETTW) Program shall be
18 continuously appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the
19 Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The Illinois Student
20 Assistance Commission shall distribute to each public
21 university an amount equal to the documented costs incurred by
22 that public university during the prior fiscal year as a
23 direct result of administering the Special Education Teacher
24 Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program. Such distribution shall be
25 made for the sole purpose of reimbursing each public
26 university for those administrative and program-related costs.

1 This subsection (f) constitutes an irrevocable and continuing
2 appropriation of all amounts necessary for the purpose
3 specified in this subsection (f) to the fullest extent such
4 appropriation is required.

5 (Source: P.A. 103-448, eff. 8-4-23.)

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
7 2026.".