

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Scholarship Accessibility Act.

6 Section 5. Illinois Scholarship Database.

7 (a) The Illinois Scholarship Database is established. The  
8 Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall develop,  
9 implement, and administer the Database.

10 (b) The Database shall be both a website and an  
11 application so that the Database is publicly accessible and  
12 easy to use.

13 (c) The purpose of the Database is to be a utility to  
14 improve Illinois students' access to higher education  
15 scholarships, as well as to improve their knowledge of  
16 scholarships.

17 (d) To inform students and their parents on what  
18 scholarships are and how they are attained and maintained, all  
19 of the following apply:

20 (1) Beginning in the 7th grade, a public school shall  
21 inform students of the Database and shall require them to  
22 create an account with the Database. The account may not  
23 be under any administrative body that has access to or the

1 ability to terminate the email used to register for the  
2 account.

3 (2) To help consistently keep parents informed of the  
4 importance of scholarships and financial aid, the account  
5 shall be created jointly by the student and the parent,  
6 with a clear indication of which user is the student and  
7 which user is the parent.

8 (3) Both the student and the parent shall have access  
9 to the account and the ability to manage activity on the  
10 account.

11 (e) The Database shall allow the student to have and the  
12 student is required to complete a profile that does both of the  
13 following:

14 (1) Presents a portfolio of the student and who the  
15 student is and the student's current year of enrollment.  
16 This requirement shall be a part of the account-creation  
17 process and may not be different for students of different  
18 ages.

19 (2) Lists any criminal charge that requires the  
20 student to be a part of a registry for a crime the student  
21 has committed, unless the student is legally protected  
22 under law or court order or another exigent circumstance.  
23 This paragraph (2) does not apply to a student until the  
24 student has finished high school. This paragraph (2) does  
25 apply to a student who is considered to have failed high  
26 school.

1 Section 10. Database contents.

2 (a) The Database shall include and display a comprehensive  
3 list of scholarships as follows:

4 (1) Entities or persons that offer higher education  
5 scholarships shall be allowed to add their scholarships  
6 and the requirements for those scholarships to the  
7 Database if the requirements do not:

8 (A) offer a scholarship opportunity only at  
9 particular higher education institutions without being  
10 completely transparent as to which higher education  
11 institutions the scholarship opportunity is offered  
12 at;

13 (B) offer a scholarship opportunity without  
14 showing all of the requirements to obtain the  
15 scholarship opportunity; or

16 (C) have troublesome or absurd requirements that  
17 are not appropriate for higher education institutions.

18 (2) More widely known scholarships from anywhere in  
19 the country may be displayed if they are accessible to  
20 students in this State.

21 (b) The Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall be  
22 responsible for funding scholarship workshops that can be  
23 viewed by all students and other events decided upon by the  
24 Commission to help inform students and parents and make them  
25 aware of scholarships.

1           Section 15. Adult student access.

2           (a) Students 18 years of age or older shall also be able to  
3 create an account with and have access to the Database. These  
4 students shall be able to maintain an account without the  
5 requirement of having a parent have access to the account. A  
6 student who created an account prior to turning 18 may remove  
7 the student's parent from the account after reaching the age  
8 of 18.

9           (b) The requirements of subsection (e) of Section 5 shall  
10 apply to an account created by a student 18 years of age or  
11 older.

12           (c) The Database shall remain accessible to any student  
13 who uses it, regardless of age.