

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by  
5 adding Section 12-4.13b as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.13b new)

7 Sec. 12-4.13b. College student eligibility for  
8 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits.

9 (a) (1) To complement student financial assistance programs  
10 and to enhance their effectiveness by more fully addressing the  
11 costs of attendance for students with financial needs, the  
12 Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) shall identify  
13 and flag college students who are potentially eligible to  
14 receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
15 benefits. The factors to be used to determine potential SNAP  
16 eligibility shall be determined in consultation with the  
17 Department of Human Services, but at a minimum shall include  
18 income information reported on a college student's Free  
19 Application for Federal Student Aid. ISAC, in consultation with  
20 the Department of Human Services, shall develop a notice that  
21 ISAC shall make available electronically to institutions of  
22 higher education that includes, at a minimum, college student  
23 SNAP eligibility criteria, the Application for Benefits

1 Eligibility's website address, and the Illinois Hunger  
2 Coalition's Hunger Hotline.

3 (2) Illinois institutions of higher education that  
4 participate in the Monetary Award Program shall provide the  
5 notice described in paragraph (1) in writing to all students  
6 who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment and are identified  
7 by ISAC as potentially SNAP eligible and, if possible, may  
8 designate a public benefits liaison or single point person to  
9 assist students in taking the necessary steps to obtain public  
10 benefits if eligible.

11 (3) ISAC shall adopt any rules necessary to implement the  
12 provisions of this subsection (a) on or before October 1, 2017.

13 (b) For the purposes of Section 273.5(b) (11) (ii) of Title 7  
14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, an educational program  
15 offered at a community college under the Carl D. Perkins Career  
16 and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Public Law  
17 109-270) that could be a component of a SNAP Employment and  
18 Training (E&T) program, as identified by the Department of  
19 Human Services, shall be considered an employment and training  
20 program under Section 273.7 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal  
21 Regulations, unless prohibited by federal law.

22 (c) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with  
23 representatives of the Illinois Community College Board, ISAC,  
24 the Illinois Workforce Investment Board, and advocates for  
25 students and SNAP recipients, shall establish a protocol to  
26 identify and verify all potential exemptions to the eligibility

1 rule described in Section 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of  
2 Federal Regulations, and to identify and verify a student's  
3 participation in educational programs, including, but not  
4 limited to, self-initiated placements, that would exempt a  
5 student from the eligibility rule described in Section 273.5(a)  
6 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. To the extent  
7 possible, this consultation shall take place through existing  
8 workgroups convened by the Department of Human Services.

9 (d) If the United States Department of Agriculture requires  
10 federal approval of the exemption designation established  
11 pursuant to subsection (b) and the protocol established  
12 pursuant to subsection (c), the Department of Human Services  
13 shall seek and obtain that approval before publishing the  
14 guidance or regulation required by subsection (f).

15 (e) (1) This Section does not require the Department of  
16 Human Services to offer a particular component, support  
17 services, or workers' compensation to a college student found  
18 eligible for an exemption pursuant to this Section.

19 (2) This Section does not restrict or require the use of  
20 federal funds for the financing of SNAP E&T programs.

21 (3) This Section does not require an institution of higher  
22 education to verify eligibility for SNAP.

23 (f) The Department of Human Services shall adopt any rules  
24 necessary to implement the provisions of subsections (b), (c),  
25 (d), and (e) on or before October 1, 2017.

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

1 becoming law.