



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB3447

by Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Tuition Reduction Act. Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, requires each public university located in this State to reimburse its full-time resident undergraduate students a portion of the tuition charged in the form of a grant applied directly to a student's financial aid account. Provides that to determine the per-pupil grant amount, the university shall calculate the difference, if any, between the current fiscal year's aggregate appropriations to the university and fiscal year 2015's aggregate appropriations to the university and divide that amount by the number of students enrolled in the previous academic year. Provides that 50% of this calculation then equals the per-pupil grant amount, to be awarded to currently enrolled students to reduce their tuition costs (unless the current fiscal year's aggregate appropriations to the university are equal to or less than fiscal year 2015's aggregate appropriations). Requires each university to annually report updated estimates of the total amount in grants awarded in an academic year to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the General Assembly. Effective immediately.

LRB100 11388 MLM 21789 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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Tuition Reduction Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative intent.

7 (a) The General Assembly recognizes that this State's
8 higher education system plays a critical role in ensuring this
9 State's continued leadership role in driving economic
10 prosperity, innovation, and opportunity. By educating citizens
11 for living wage jobs, producing world-class research, and
12 helping to create vibrant communities, this State's
13 institutions of higher education form a foundational component
14 in ensuring prosperity for our citizens.

15 (b) The General Assembly also recognizes the importance of
16 prioritizing scarce resources for the core, front-line
17 services that higher education institutions provide, namely
18 instruction, research, and robust financial aid. During times
19 of economic downturn, policymakers must focus on those areas of
20 public service that have the most direct and immediate impact
21 on students. Keeping class sections open, attracting the best
22 professors and instructors, providing comprehensive support
23 services, and offering meaningful financial help to offset the

1 costs of attending college must be the main concerns of
2 policymakers. It is for these reasons that the General Assembly
3 intends to refocus its commitment to direct aid to students and
4 continue efforts to make college more affordable.

5 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

6 "Student" means a full-time resident undergraduate student
7 enrolled at a university.

8 "University" means a public university located in this
9 State.

10 Section 15. Tuition grants.

11 (a) Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, each
12 university must reimburse a portion of the tuition charged to
13 students as provided in this subsection (a). Reimbursement
14 shall be in the form of a grant applied directly to a student's
15 financial aid account. To determine the per-pupil grant amount,
16 the university shall calculate the difference, if any, between
17 the current fiscal year's aggregate appropriations to the
18 university and fiscal year 2015's aggregate appropriations to
19 the university and divide that amount by the number of students
20 enrolled in the previous academic year. Fifty percent of this
21 calculation then equals the per-pupil grant amount, to be
22 awarded to currently enrolled students to reduce their tuition
23 costs. However, if the current fiscal year's aggregate
24 appropriations to the university are equal to or less than

1 fiscal year 2015's aggregate appropriations, then the
2 university is not required to award any grants under this
3 subsection (a) in a given academic year.

4 (b) On or before September 1, 2018 and on or before
5 September 1 each year thereafter, each university shall report
6 updated estimates of the total amount in grants awarded under
7 subsection (a) of this Section in an academic year to the
8 Governor and the appropriate committees of the General
9 Assembly.

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law.