

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 Bridge
5 Program for Underrepresented Students Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Public university" means Chicago State University,
8 Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University,
9 Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University,
10 Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University,
11 Western Illinois University, the University of Illinois, or any
12 other public university established or authorized by the
13 General Assembly.

14 "State resident" includes an individual who meets all of
15 the following conditions:

16 (1) the individual resided with his or her parent or
17 guardian while attending a public or private high school in
18 this State;

19 (2) the individual graduated from a public or private
20 high school or received the equivalent of a high school
21 diploma in this State;

22 (3) the individual attended school in this State for at
23 least 3 years as of the date the individual graduated from

1 high school or received the equivalent of a high school
2 diploma;

3 (4) the individual registers as an entering student of
4 the public university no earlier than the fall 2018
5 semester; and

6 (5) in the case of an individual who is not a citizen
7 or a permanent resident of the United States, the
8 individual provides to the public university an affidavit
9 stating that the individual will file an application to
10 become a permanent resident of the United States at the
11 earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so.

12 "State resident" also includes a person on active military
13 duty and stationed in Illinois and any of his or her
14 dependents; a person on active military duty and stationed out
15 of Illinois, but stationed in this State for at least 3 years
16 immediately prior to being reassigned out of Illinois, and any
17 of his or her dependents, as long as that person or his or her
18 dependent (i) applies for admission to the public university
19 within 18 months of the person on active military duty being
20 reassigned or (ii) remains continuously enrolled at the public
21 university; or a person who utilizes benefits under the federal
22 Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 or any
23 subsequent variation of that Act or the federal All-Volunteer
24 Force Educational Assistance program.

25 "Underrepresented student" means any student who:

26 (1) is Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino,

1 American Indian or Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian or
2 Other Pacific Islander;

3 (2) is from a county in this State from which a public
4 university at all of its campuses combined has enrolled on
5 average 2 or fewer students from the county over the last 3
6 years; or

7 (3) is from a family whose household income is at or
8 below the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the
9 Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human
10 Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2) and whose
11 expected family contribution as computed by the public
12 university equals zero.

13 Section 10. Purpose and program responsibilities.

14 (a) Subject to appropriation, a public university may
15 establish a Bridge Program for underrepresented students.

16 (b) The Bridge Program shall be open only to State
17 residents. Priority shall be given to applicants whose life
18 patterns have been characterized by historical economic or
19 cultural deprivation.

20 (c) A public university's Bridge Program shall include, but
21 is not limited to, the following, which shall be approved by
22 the public university's Board of Trustees:

23 (1) a description of the content of the Program,
24 including, but not limited to, counseling, tutoring, and
25 skill development in a Program plan format;

1 (2) procedures for the selection of students from
2 eligible applicants;

3 (3) procedures for evaluation of student progress; and

4 (4) reporting procedures to the public university's
5 Board of Trustees.

6 Section 15. Program funding. Appropriations made available
7 to a public university under this Act shall be utilized only
8 for the following Bridge Program purposes:

9 (1) testing, counseling, and guidance services in the
10 course of screening potential Program applicants;

11 (2) remedial courses, developmental courses, and
12 summer courses for potential Program applicants;

13 (3) tutoring, counseling, and guidance services for
14 enrolled students;

15 (4) any necessary supplemental financial assistance,
16 which may include, but is not limited to, the cost of books
17 and necessary maintenance, for the students; however,
18 supplemental financial assistance shall be furnished
19 pursuant to criteria established by the Board of Trustees
20 of the public university; or

21 (5) direct Bridge Program staff costs.

22 Section 20. Program personnel. Each public university that
23 establishes a Bridge Program shall designate a full-time
24 Program director. The Program director shall be responsible for

1 the following:

2 (1) development of the Program plan, including, but not
3 limited to, the academic achievement levels and academic
4 progress necessary to remain in the Bridge Program;

5 (2) management of Program enrollment and finances as
6 approved by the public university's Board of Trustees;

7 (3) conducting fiscal planning and fund distributions
8 with appropriate monitors and controls;

9 (4) developing an application process and marketing
10 process for the Program;

11 (5) creating clear guidelines for applicant
12 eligibility, enrollment, service coordination throughout
13 the public university, and Program structure;

14 (6) management of all full-time or part-time staff
15 members associated with the public university's Program;

16 (7) promoting collaboration between the Program and
17 other offices affecting applicants or enrolled students,
18 including, but not limited to, the admissions office or
19 financial aid office;

20 (8) establishing an advisory structure that promotes
21 consultation with university department heads, faculty,
22 and professionals on matters of policy, procedure, and
23 curriculum;

24 (9) establishing specific procedures for counseling
25 students who are being dismissed from the Program for
26 academic reasons or who withdraw from it voluntarily; and

1 (10) creating Program reports as required by the public
2 university's Board of Trustees or State law.

3 Section 25. Reporting. A public university that has
4 established a Bridge Program shall, on or before September 1,
5 2019 and on or before September 1 of each subsequent year,
6 publish on its website and make available to the public a
7 report for the previous fiscal year containing all of the
8 following:

9 (1) A statement of the objectives of the Program at the
10 public university.

11 (2) A description of the Program.

12 (3) The budgetary expenditures for the Program that
13 separately states instructional costs, tutoring costs,
14 remedial course costs, tutoring costs, counseling costs,
15 supplemental financial assistance costs, program staff
16 costs, and any other costs the Board of Trustees finds
17 essential to the continuation of the Program. The
18 expenditures shall separately detail costs from
19 appropriations and costs from other funds of the public
20 university.

21 (4) The number of applicants for the Program.

22 (5) The number of applicants accepted to the Program.

23 (6) The number of students enrolled in the Program.

24 (7) The progress of the students enrolled in the
25 Program.

1 (8) First and second year retention rates for students
2 enrolled in the Program.

3 (9) Graduation rates for students enrolled in the
4 Program.

5 (10) The number of full-time and part-time faculty
6 dedicated to the Program from the public university.

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
8 becoming law.