



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB0026

Introduced 1/9/2019, by Rep. André Thapedi

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Public University Uniform Admission Act. Requires each public university in this State to admit first-time freshman applicants as undergraduate students if the applicant graduated with a grade point average in the top 10% or was certified to be in the top 10% of the student's high school graduating class in one of the 2 school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission and (1) the applicant graduated from an accredited public or private high school in this State or from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense; (2) the applicant successfully completed the minimum college preparatory curriculum requirements for admission to the university and satisfied the ACT college admission assessment or the SAT college admission assessment composite score and subscores required for admission to the university; and (3) if the applicant graduated from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense, the applicant is a State resident or is entitled to pay tuition fees at the rate provided for State residents. Provides that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is not required to offer admission to applicants who qualify for automatic admission in excess of the number required to fill 75% of the university's enrollment capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate students in an academic year. Sets forth other provisions concerning the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Sets forth other provisions concerning admissions. Provides for additional preparation for college, student outreach, and rulemaking.

LRB101 03315 AXK 48323 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 Public
5 University Uniform Admission Act.

6 Section 5. Definition. In this Act, "institution" means a
7 public university in this State.

8 Section 10. Uniform admission system. An institution shall
9 admit first-time freshman students for each semester under the
10 provisions of this Act.

11 Section 15. Automatic admission.

12 (a) Subject to Section 20 of this Act, each institution
13 shall admit an applicant for admission to the institution as an
14 undergraduate student if the applicant graduated with a grade
15 point average in the top 10% or was certified to be in the top
16 10% of the student's high school graduating class in one of the
17 2 school years preceding the academic year for which the
18 applicant is applying for admission and:

19 (1) the applicant graduated from a public or private
20 high school in this State accredited by a generally
21 recognized accrediting organization or from a high school

1 operated by the United States Department of Defense;

2 (2) the applicant:

3 (A) successfully completed the minimum college
4 preparatory curriculum requirements established by law
5 for admission to the institution; and

6 (B) satisfied the ACT college admission assessment
7 or the SAT college admission assessment composite
8 score and subscores required for admission to the
9 institution to which the applicant applied as well as
10 any composite scores or subscores for colleges within
11 that institution; and

12 (3) if the applicant graduated from a high school
13 operated by the United States Department of Defense, the
14 applicant is a State resident or is entitled to pay tuition
15 fees at the rate provided for State residents for the term
16 or semester to which admitted.

17 (b) An applicant who does not satisfy the curriculum
18 requirements prescribed by item (A) of subdivision (2) of
19 subsection (a) of this Section is considered to have satisfied
20 those requirements if the student completed the portion of the
21 college preparatory curriculum that was available to the
22 student but was unable to complete the remainder of the
23 curriculum solely because courses necessary to complete the
24 remainder were unavailable to the student at the appropriate
25 times in the student's high school career as a result of course
26 scheduling, lack of enrollment capacity, or another cause not

1 within the student's control.

2 (c) An applicant who graduates in a graduating class of a
3 school, whether public or non-public, that has so few students
4 that class rank does not make a reliable contribution toward
5 assessing the student's college readiness is considered to have
6 satisfied the requirements of subsection (a) of this Section if
7 the student has a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a
8 4-point scale and has met the requirements of item (A) or (B)
9 of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this Section.

10 Section 20. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
11 admission.

12 (a) The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is not
13 required to offer admission to applicants who qualify for
14 automatic admission under Section 15 of this Act in excess of
15 the number required to fill 75% of the university's enrollment
16 capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate
17 students in an academic year. If the number of applicants who
18 qualify for automatic admission to the University of Illinois
19 at Urbana-Champaign under Section 15 of this Act for an
20 academic year exceeds 75% of the university's enrollment
21 capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate
22 students for that academic year, the university may elect to
23 offer admission to those applicants as provided by this
24 subsection (a) and not as otherwise required by Section 15 of
25 this Act. If the university elects to offer admission under

1 this subsection (a), the university shall offer admission to
2 those applicants by percentile rank according to high school
3 graduating class standing based on grade point average,
4 beginning with the top percentile rank, until the applicants
5 qualified under Section 15 of this Act have been offered
6 admission in the number estimated in good faith by the
7 university as sufficient to fill 75% of the university's
8 enrollment capacity designated for first-time resident
9 undergraduate students, except that the university must offer
10 admission to all applicants with the same percentile rank.
11 After the applicants qualified for automatic admission under
12 Section 15 of this Act have been offered admission under this
13 subsection (a) in the number estimated in good faith as
14 sufficient to fill 75% of the designated enrollment capacity
15 described by this subsection (a), the university shall consider
16 any remaining applicants qualified for automatic admission
17 under Section 15 of this Act in the same manner as other
18 applicants for admission as first-time undergraduate students.

19 (b) If the number of applicants who apply to the University
20 of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign during the current academic
21 year for admission in the next academic year and who qualify
22 for automatic admission to an institution under Section 15 of
23 this Act exceeds 75% of the university's enrollment capacity
24 designated for first-time resident undergraduate students for
25 that next academic year and the university plans to offer
26 admission under subsection (a) of this Section during the next

1 academic year, the university shall, in the manner prescribed
2 by the Board of Higher Education and not later than September
3 15 of the current academic year, provide to each school
4 district, for dissemination of the information to high school
5 junior-level students and their parents, notice of which
6 percentile ranks of high school senior-level students who
7 qualify for automatic admission under Section 15 of this Act
8 are anticipated by the university to be offered admission under
9 subsection (a) of this Section during the next academic year.

10 (c) If the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
11 elects to offer admission to first-time resident undergraduate
12 students under subsection (a) of this Section for an academic
13 year, the university must not consider an applicant's legacy
14 status as a factor in the university's decisions relating to
15 admissions for that academic year.

16 (d) If the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
17 offers admission to first-time resident undergraduate students
18 under subsection (a) of this Section, the university shall
19 require that a student admitted under subsection (a) of this
20 Section complete a designated portion of not less than 6
21 semester credit hours of the student's coursework during
22 evening hours or other low-demand hours as necessary to ensure
23 the efficient use of the university's available classrooms.

24 (e) If the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
25 elects to offer admission under subsection (a) of this Section
26 for an academic year, the university may not offer admission to

1 first-time undergraduate students who are not residents of this
2 State for that academic year in excess of the number required
3 to fill 10% of the university's enrollment capacity designated
4 for first-time undergraduate students for that academic year.

5 (f) Not later than December 31 of each academic year in
6 which the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offers
7 admission under subsection (a) of this Section, the university
8 shall deliver a written report to the Governor and the General
9 Assembly regarding the university's progress in each of the
10 following matters:

11 (1) increasing geographic diversity of the entering
12 freshman class;

13 (2) counseling and outreach efforts aimed at students
14 qualified for automatic admission under this Act;

15 (3) recruiting State residents who graduate from other
16 institutions of higher education to the university's
17 graduate and professional degree programs;

18 (4) recruiting students who are members of
19 underrepresented demographic segments of this State's
20 population; and

21 (5) assessing and improving the university's
22 recruitment efforts.

23 The report to the General Assembly shall be filed with the
24 Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the
25 Senate in electronic form only, in the manner that the Clerk
26 and the Secretary shall direct.

1 (g) The Board of Higher Education shall publish an annual
2 report on the impact of subsection (a) of this Section on this
3 State's goal of closing college access and achievement gaps
4 with respect to students of the University of Illinois at
5 Urbana-Champaign, disaggregated by race, ethnicity,
6 socioeconomic status, and geographic region and by whether the
7 high school from which the student graduated was a small
8 school, as designated by the State Superintendent of Education,
9 or a public high school that is ranked among the lowest 20% of
10 public high schools according to the percentage of each high
11 school's graduates who enroll in an institution in one of the 2
12 academic years following the year of the applicant's high
13 school graduation. On request, the university shall provide the
14 Board with any information the Board considers necessary for
15 the completion of the report required by this subsection (g).

16 Section 25. Admission requirements.

17 (a) To qualify for admission under this Act, an applicant
18 must:

19 (1) submit an application before the expiration of any
20 application filing deadline established by the
21 institution; and

22 (2) provide a high school transcript or diploma that
23 satisfies the requirements of subsection (b) of this
24 Section.

25 (b) For purposes of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of

1 this Section, a student's official transcript or diploma must,
2 not later than the end of the student's junior year, indicate:

3 (1) whether the student has satisfied or is on schedule
4 to satisfy the requirements of item (A) of subdivision (2)
5 of subsection (a) of Section 15 of this Act; or

6 (2) if subsection (b) of Section 15 of this Act applies
7 to the student, whether the student has completed the
8 portion of the college preparatory curriculum that was
9 available to the student.

10 Section 27. Graduates of nonaccredited private schools.

11 (a) As used in this Section, "nonaccredited secondary
12 education" means a course of study at the secondary school
13 level in a nonaccredited private school setting.

14 (b) Because the State of Illinois considers successful
15 completion of a nonaccredited secondary education to be
16 equivalent to graduation from a public high school, an
17 institution, in complying with this Act and for all other
18 purposes, must treat an applicant for admission to the
19 institution as an undergraduate student who presents evidence
20 that he or she has successfully completed a nonaccredited
21 secondary education according to the same general standards,
22 including specific standardized testing score requirements, as
23 other applicants for undergraduate admission who have
24 graduated from a public high school.

25 (c) An institution may not require an applicant for

1 admission to the institution as an undergraduate student who
2 presents evidence that he or she has successfully completed a
3 nonaccredited secondary education to:

4 (1) obtain or submit evidence that the person has
5 obtained a general educational development certificate,
6 certificate of high school equivalency, or other
7 credentials equivalent to a public high school degree; or

8 (2) take an examination or comply with any other
9 application or admission requirement not generally
10 applicable to other applicants for undergraduate admission
11 to the institution.

12 (d) In complying with this Act or otherwise, when an
13 institution in its undergraduate admission review process
14 sorts or is required to sort applicants by high school
15 graduating class rank, the institution shall place any
16 applicant who presents evidence that the applicant has
17 successfully completed a nonaccredited secondary education
18 that does not include a high school graduating class ranking at
19 the average high school graduating class rank of undergraduate
20 applicants to the institution who have equivalent standardized
21 testing scores as the applicant.

22 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, with
23 respect to admission into the institution or any program within
24 the institution, with respect to scholarship programs, and with
25 respect to other terms and conditions, and in complying with
26 this Act, an institution may not treat an applicant who has

1 successfully completed a nonaccredited secondary education
2 that does not include a high school graduating class ranking
3 differently than an applicant who graduated from an accredited
4 public school.

5 Section 30. Admission for child of fallen police officer,
6 firefighter, or Department of Corrections employee. Each
7 institution shall admit an applicant for admission to the
8 institution as an undergraduate student if the applicant:

9 (1) is the child of a police officer or firefighter
10 employed by or in the voluntary service of this State or
11 any local public entity in this State who was killed or
12 sustained a fatal injury in the line of duty or is the
13 child of an employee of the Department of Corrections who
14 was assigned to a security position with the Department
15 with responsibility for inmates of a correctional
16 institution under the jurisdiction of the Department and
17 who was killed or sustained a fatal injury in the line of
18 duty;

19 (2) meets the minimum requirements, if any,
20 established for purposes of this Section by the governing
21 board of the institution for high school or prior
22 college-level grade point average and performance on
23 standardized tests; and

24 (3) satisfies the ACT college admission assessment or
25 the SAT college admission assessment composite score and

1 subscores required for admission to the institution to
2 which the applicant applied as well as any composite scores
3 or subscores for colleges within that institution.

4 Section 35. Additional preparation for college. After
5 admitting an applicant under this Act, the institution shall
6 review the applicant's record and any other factor the
7 institution considers appropriate to determine whether the
8 applicant may require additional preparation for college-level
9 work or would benefit from inclusion in a retention program.
10 The institution may require a student so identified to enroll
11 during the summer immediately after the student is admitted
12 under this Act to participate in appropriate enrichment courses
13 and orientation programs. This Act does not prohibit a student
14 who is not determined to need additional preparation for
15 college-level work from enrolling, if the student chooses,
16 during the summer immediately after the student is admitted
17 under this Act.

18 Section 40. Student outreach program. The Illinois Student
19 Assistance Commission, by rule, shall develop and implement a
20 program to increase and enhance the efforts of institutions in
21 conducting outreach to academically high-performing high
22 school seniors in this State who are likely to be eligible for
23 automatic admission under Section 15 of this Act to provide to
24 those students information and counseling regarding the

1 operation of this Act and other opportunities, including
2 financial assistance, available to those students for success
3 at institutions. Under the program, the Commission, after
4 gathering information and recommendations from available
5 sources and examining current outreach practices by
6 institutions of higher education in this State and in other
7 states, shall prescribe best practice guidelines and standards
8 to be used by institutions in conducting the student outreach
9 described by this Section.

10 Section 45. Fall or summer enrollment. An institution that
11 admits, under this Act, an applicant qualified for automatic
12 admission under Section 15 of this Act may admit the applicant
13 for either the fall semester of the academic year for which the
14 applicant applies or for the summer session preceding that fall
15 semester, as determined by the institution.

16 Section 50. Admissions denial; reference to Act. If an
17 institution denies admission to an applicant for an academic
18 year, then, in any letter or other communication the
19 institution provides to the applicant notifying the applicant
20 of that denial, the institution may not reference the
21 provisions of this Act, including using a description of a
22 provision of this Act such as "the top 10% automatic admissions
23 law", as a reason the institution is unable to offer admission
24 to the applicant, unless the number of applicants for admission

1 to the institution for that academic year who qualify for
2 automatic admission under Section 15 of this Act is sufficient
3 to fill 100% of the institution's enrollment capacity
4 designated for first-time resident undergraduate students.

5 Section 90. Rules. The Board of Higher Education and the
6 Illinois Student Assistance Commission may adopt any rules
7 necessary to implement this Act.