

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 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
5 amended by adding Section 65.105 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.105 new)

7 Sec. 65.105. Adult vocational community college  
8 scholarship.

9 (a) The Commission shall, subject to appropriation,  
10 establish and administer an adult vocational community college  
11 scholarship program.

12 (b) Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, the  
13 Commission shall, each year, receive and consider applications  
14 for scholarships under this Section. An applicant is eligible  
15 for a scholarship under this Section if the Commission finds  
16 that the applicant meets all of the following qualifications:

17 (1) He or she is over the age of 30.

18 (2) He or she has been unemployed and is actively  
19 searching for employment, including being enrolled on the  
20 Department of Employment Security's job-search website for  
21 at least 6 months prior to the date the application is  
22 submitted by the applicant.

23 (3) He or she is enrolled or accepted for enrollment at

1 his or her local community college organized under the  
2 Public Community College Act.

3 (4) He or she can identify the specific training  
4 certificate, credential, or associate degree that he or she  
5 is seeking to obtain; the career that the certificate,  
6 credential, or degree will help create; and how long it  
7 will take the applicant to reach this goal.

8 Applicants may re-apply for the scholarship under this  
9 Section if they can demonstrate continual progress, in terms of  
10 grades and attendance, toward the desired certificate,  
11 credential, or degree.

12 (c) The scholarship shall be sufficient to cover the cost  
13 of tuition and fees to attend the community college, but in no  
14 event shall the scholarship exceed \$2,000 per scholarship  
15 recipient per academic year.

16 The total amount of a scholarship awarded by the Commission  
17 under this Section to an individual in any given fiscal year,  
18 when added to other financial assistance awarded to that  
19 individual for that year, shall not exceed the cost of  
20 attendance at the community college at which the student is  
21 enrolled.

22 (d) All applications for scholarships to be awarded under  
23 this Section shall be made to the Commission in a form as set  
24 forth by the Commission. The form of application and the  
25 information required to be set forth in the application shall  
26 be determined by the Commission, and the Commission shall

1 require eligible applicants to submit with their applications  
2 such supporting documents as the Commission deems necessary.

3 (e) Subject to a separate appropriation made for such  
4 purposes, payment of any scholarships awarded under this  
5 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship  
6 funds distributed in accordance with this Section shall be paid  
7 to the community college on behalf of the recipients.  
8 Scholarship funds are applicable toward 2 semesters of  
9 enrollment within an academic year. Up to 2% of the  
10 appropriation for this scholarship program may be used by the  
11 Commission for the costs of administering the scholarship  
12 program. If funds appropriated for the program are insufficient  
13 to provide grants to each eligible applicant, the Commission  
14 may prioritize the distribution of grants based on factors that  
15 include an applicant's financial need, duration of  
16 unemployment, prior level of educational attainment, or date of  
17 application.

18 (f) The Commission shall adopt all necessary and proper  
19 rules not inconsistent with this Section for its effective  
20 implementation.

21 Section 10. The Unemployment Insurance Act is amended by  
22 changing Section 1900 as follows:

23 (820 ILCS 405/1900) (from Ch. 48, par. 640)

24 Sec. 1900. Disclosure of information.

1           A. Except as provided in this Section, information obtained  
2 from any individual or employing unit during the administration  
3 of this Act shall:

4                 1. be confidential,

5                 2. not be published or open to public inspection,

6                 3. not be used in any court in any pending action or  
7 proceeding,

8                 4. not be admissible in evidence in any action or  
9 proceeding other than one arising out of this Act.

10           B. No finding, determination, decision, ruling or order  
11 (including any finding of fact, statement or conclusion made  
12 therein) issued pursuant to this Act shall be admissible or  
13 used in evidence in any action other than one arising out of  
14 this Act, nor shall it be binding or conclusive except as  
15 provided in this Act, nor shall it constitute res judicata,  
16 regardless of whether the actions were between the same or  
17 related parties or involved the same facts.

18           C. Any officer or employee of this State, any officer or  
19 employee of any entity authorized to obtain information  
20 pursuant to this Section, and any agent of this State or of  
21 such entity who, except with authority of the Director under  
22 this Section, shall disclose information shall be guilty of a  
23 Class B misdemeanor and shall be disqualified from holding any  
24 appointment or employment by the State.

25           D. An individual or his duly authorized agent may be  
26 supplied with information from records only to the extent

1 necessary for the proper presentation of his claim for benefits  
2 or with his existing or prospective rights to benefits.  
3 Discretion to disclose this information belongs solely to the  
4 Director and is not subject to a release or waiver by the  
5 individual. Notwithstanding any other provision to the  
6 contrary, an individual or his or her duly authorized agent may  
7 be supplied with a statement of the amount of benefits paid to  
8 the individual during the 18 months preceding the date of his  
9 or her request.

10 E. An employing unit may be furnished with information,  
11 only if deemed by the Director as necessary to enable it to  
12 fully discharge its obligations or safeguard its rights under  
13 the Act. Discretion to disclose this information belongs solely  
14 to the Director and is not subject to a release or waiver by  
15 the employing unit.

16 F. The Director may furnish any information that he may  
17 deem proper to any public officer or public agency of this or  
18 any other State or of the federal government dealing with:

- 19 1. the administration of relief,
- 20 2. public assistance,
- 21 3. unemployment compensation,
- 22 4. a system of public employment offices,
- 23 5. wages and hours of employment, or
- 24 6. a public works program.

25 The Director may make available to the Illinois Workers'  
26 Compensation Commission information regarding employers for

1 the purpose of verifying the insurance coverage required under  
2 the Workers' Compensation Act and Workers' Occupational  
3 Diseases Act.

4 G. The Director may disclose information submitted by the  
5 State or any of its political subdivisions, municipal  
6 corporations, instrumentalities, or school or community  
7 college districts, except for information which specifically  
8 identifies an individual claimant.

9 H. The Director shall disclose only that information  
10 required to be disclosed under Section 303 of the Social  
11 Security Act, as amended, including:

12 1. any information required to be given the United  
13 States Department of Labor under Section 303(a) (6); and

14 2. the making available upon request to any agency of  
15 the United States charged with the administration of public  
16 works or assistance through public employment, the name,  
17 address, ordinary occupation and employment status of each  
18 recipient of unemployment compensation, and a statement of  
19 such recipient's right to further compensation under such  
20 law as required by Section 303(a) (7); and

21 3. records to make available to the Railroad Retirement  
22 Board as required by Section 303(c) (1); and

23 4. information that will assure reasonable cooperation  
24 with every agency of the United States charged with the  
25 administration of any unemployment compensation law as  
26 required by Section 303(c) (2); and

1           5. information upon request and on a reimbursable basis  
2 to the United States Department of Agriculture and to any  
3 State food stamp agency concerning any information  
4 required to be furnished by Section 303(d); and

5           6. any wage information upon request and on a  
6 reimbursable basis to any State or local child support  
7 enforcement agency required by Section 303(e); and

8           7. any information required under the income  
9 eligibility and verification system as required by Section  
10 303(f); and

11           8. information that might be useful in locating an  
12 absent parent or that parent's employer, establishing  
13 paternity or establishing, modifying, or enforcing child  
14 support orders for the purpose of a child support  
15 enforcement program under Title IV of the Social Security  
16 Act upon the request of and on a reimbursable basis to the  
17 public agency administering the Federal Parent Locator  
18 Service as required by Section 303(h); and

19           9. information, upon request, to representatives of  
20 any federal, State or local governmental public housing  
21 agency with respect to individuals who have signed the  
22 appropriate consent form approved by the Secretary of  
23 Housing and Urban Development and who are applying for or  
24 participating in any housing assistance program  
25 administered by the United States Department of Housing and  
26 Urban Development as required by Section 303(i).

1 I. The Director, upon the request of a public agency of  
2 Illinois, of the federal government or of any other state  
3 charged with the investigation or enforcement of Section 10-5  
4 of the Criminal Code of 2012 (or a similar federal law or  
5 similar law of another State), may furnish the public agency  
6 information regarding the individual specified in the request  
7 as to:

8 1. the current or most recent home address of the  
9 individual, and

10 2. the names and addresses of the individual's  
11 employers.

12 J. Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to interfere  
13 with the disclosure of certain records as provided for in  
14 Section 1706 or with the right to make available to the  
15 Internal Revenue Service of the United States Department of the  
16 Treasury, or the Department of Revenue of the State of  
17 Illinois, information obtained under this Act.

18 K. The Department shall make available to the Illinois  
19 Student Assistance Commission, upon request, information in  
20 the possession of the Department that may be necessary or  
21 useful to the Commission in the collection of defaulted or  
22 delinquent student loans which the Commission administers.

23 L. The Department shall make available to the State  
24 Employees' Retirement System, the State Universities  
25 Retirement System, the Teachers' Retirement System of the State  
26 of Illinois, and the Department of Central Management Services,



1 Risk Management Division, upon request, information in the  
2 possession of the Department that may be necessary or useful to  
3 the System or the Risk Management Division for the purpose of  
4 determining whether any recipient of a disability benefit from  
5 the System or a workers' compensation benefit from the Risk  
6 Management Division is gainfully employed.

7 M. This Section shall be applicable to the information  
8 obtained in the administration of the State employment service,  
9 except that the Director may publish or release general labor  
10 market information and may furnish information that he may deem  
11 proper to an individual, public officer or public agency of  
12 this or any other State or the federal government (in addition  
13 to those public officers or public agencies specified in this  
14 Section) as he prescribes by Rule.

15 N. The Director may require such safeguards as he deems  
16 proper to insure that information disclosed pursuant to this  
17 Section is used only for the purposes set forth in this  
18 Section.

19 O. Nothing in this Section prohibits communication with an  
20 individual or entity through unencrypted e-mail or other  
21 unencrypted electronic means as long as the communication does  
22 not contain the individual's or entity's name in combination  
23 with any one or more of the individual's or entity's social  
24 security number; driver's license or State identification  
25 number; credit or debit card number; or any required security  
26 code, access code, or password that would permit access to

1 further information pertaining to the individual or entity.

2 P. (Blank).

3 Q. The Director shall make available to an elected federal  
4 official the name and address of an individual or entity that  
5 is located within the jurisdiction from which the official was  
6 elected and that, for the most recently completed calendar  
7 year, has reported to the Department as paying wages to  
8 workers, where the information will be used in connection with  
9 the official duties of the official and the official requests  
10 the information in writing, specifying the purposes for which  
11 it will be used. For purposes of this subsection, the use of  
12 information in connection with the official duties of an  
13 official does not include use of the information in connection  
14 with the solicitation of contributions or expenditures, in  
15 money or in kind, to or on behalf of a candidate for public or  
16 political office or a political party or with respect to a  
17 public question, as defined in Section 1-3 of the Election  
18 Code, or in connection with any commercial solicitation. Any  
19 elected federal official who, in submitting a request for  
20 information covered by this subsection, knowingly makes a false  
21 statement or fails to disclose a material fact, with the intent  
22 to obtain the information for a purpose not authorized by this  
23 subsection, shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

24 R. The Director may provide to any State or local child  
25 support agency, upon request and on a reimbursable basis,  
26 information that might be useful in locating an absent parent

1 or that parent's employer, establishing paternity, or  
2 establishing, modifying, or enforcing child support orders.

3 S. The Department shall make available to a State's  
4 Attorney of this State or a State's Attorney's investigator,  
5 upon request, the current address or, if the current address is  
6 unavailable, current employer information, if available, of a  
7 victim of a felony or a witness to a felony or a person against  
8 whom an arrest warrant is outstanding.

9 T. The Director shall make available to the Department of  
10 State Police, a county sheriff's office, or a municipal police  
11 department, upon request, any information concerning the  
12 current address and place of employment or former places of  
13 employment of a person who is required to register as a sex  
14 offender under the Sex Offender Registration Act that may be  
15 useful in enforcing the registration provisions of that Act.

16 U. The Director shall make information available to the  
17 Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Department  
18 of Human Services for the purpose of determining eligibility  
19 for public benefit programs authorized under the Illinois  
20 Public Aid Code and related statutes administered by those  
21 departments, for verifying sources and amounts of income, and  
22 for other purposes directly connected with the administration  
23 of those programs.

24 V. The Director shall make information available to the  
25 State Board of Elections as may be required by an agreement the  
26 State Board of Elections has entered into with a multi-state

1 voter registration list maintenance system.

2 W. The Director shall make information available to the  
3 State Treasurer's office and the Department of Revenue for the  
4 purpose of facilitating compliance with the Illinois Secure  
5 Choice Savings Program Act, including employer contact  
6 information for employers with 25 or more employees and any  
7 other information the Director deems appropriate that is  
8 directly related to the administration of this program.

9 X. The Director shall make information available, upon  
10 request, to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for the  
11 purpose of determining eligibility for the adult vocational  
12 community college scholarship program under Section 65.105 of  
13 the Higher Education Student Assistance Act.

14 (Source: P.A. 99-571, eff. 7-15-16; 99-933, eff. 1-27-17;  
15 100-484, eff. 9-8-17.)