

SB2324



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB2324

Introduced 1/8/2020, by Sen. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/23 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to implement and administer a program, beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, to award College Promise grants to Illinois residents seeking an associate degree, certificate, or diploma from an institution of higher learning. Sets forth the terms and conditions of the program. Effective immediately.

LRB101 15568 NHT 64913 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 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by adding Section 23 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/23 new)

7 Sec. 23. College Promise program.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "Continuous enrollment" means a student has attended
10 classes in the fall and spring semester of a single academic
11 year; enrollment in summer semester or intersession terms is
12 not required.

13 "Student aid" means scholarships and grants, other than a
14 College Promise grant, awarded to a student from any source
15 that does not require repayment; "student aid" does not include
16 student loans and work-study awards.

17 (b) The Commission shall implement and administer a
18 program, beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, to award
19 College Promise grants to all eligible Illinois residents
20 seeking an associate degree, certificate, or diploma from an
21 institution. The following terms and conditions shall apply to
22 the program:

23 (1) To be eligible for a grant, a student must be

1 admitted to and enrolled full-time, as an Illinois
2 resident, in an institution in the fall term following
3 graduation from an approved high school or after obtaining
4 a high school equivalency certificate, provided that the
5 student obtains the high school equivalency certificate
6 prior to the student reaching 19 years of age. Exceptions
7 to initial enrollment may be made for extenuating
8 circumstances as provided in rules adopted by the
9 Commission.

10 (2) Students applying for a grant shall complete the
11 College Promise grant application in their initial year of
12 enrollment. Students shall complete the Free Application
13 for Federal Student Aid each academic year in which they
14 seek to receive a grant.

15 (3) To continue to receive a grant, a student must
16 maintain Illinois residency, as well as satisfactory
17 academic progress as determined by rules adopted by the
18 Commission.

19 (4) Grant recipients shall participate in mentoring
20 and community service programs under rules adopted by the
21 Commission.

22 (5) Each academic year, subject to appropriation, a
23 grant shall be equal to the cost of tuition and mandatory
24 fees at the institution attended less all other student
25 aid. Student aid shall be credited first to the student's
26 tuition and mandatory fees.

1 (6) Notwithstanding paragraph (5) of this subsection
2 (b), the amount of the grant at a public university or
3 private institution may not exceed the average cost of
4 tuition and mandatory fees at public community colleges.

5 (7) A student awarded a grant who has an approved
6 medical or personal leave of absence from an institution
7 may continue to receive the grant upon resuming the
8 student's education at an institution so long as the
9 student continues to meet all applicable eligibility
10 requirements under this Section and as adopted by the
11 Commission. The total of all approved leaves of absence may
12 not exceed 6 months.

13 (8) A student is eligible for a grant until the
14 occurrence of the first of the following events:

15 (A) the student has earned an associate degree,
16 certificate, or diploma; or

17 (B) the sum of the number of years the student has
18 attended an institution, exclusive of approved leaves
19 of absence, equals 2 and one-half years from the date
20 of the student's initial enrollment at an institution.

21 (9) Except for a medical or personal leave of absence,
22 as approved by an institution, a student awarded a grant
23 under this Section shall maintain continuous enrollment at
24 an institution.

25 (c) In awarding grants under this Section, the Commission
26 shall, by rule, develop the selection and renewal criteria for

1 students.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.