

SB2305



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB2305

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Ann Gillespie

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.110 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Creates the School Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment grant program. Provides that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall, each year, receive and consider applications from eligible social workers who are employed by a public elementary or secondary school district in the State. Relative thereto, the grant program may encourage a grant recipient to use the financial assistance for the repayment of educational loans. Sets forth eligibility requirements. Effective July 1, 2022.

LRB102 16143 CMG 21519 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning higher 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 65.110 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.110 new)

7 Sec. 65.110. School social work shortage loan repayment
8 grant program.

9 (a) To encourage Illinois students to work, and to
10 continue to work, as a school social worker in public and
11 nonpublic school districts in this State, the Commission
12 shall, each year, receive and consider applications for loan
13 repayment assistance under this Section. This program shall be
14 known as the Illinois School Social Work Shortage Loan
15 Repayment Program. The Commission shall administer the program
16 and shall adopt all necessary and proper rules to effectively
17 implement the program.

18 (b) Beginning July 1, 2022, subject to a separate
19 appropriation made for such purposes, the Commission shall
20 award a grant up to a maximum of \$6,500 to each qualified
21 applicant. The Commission may encourage the recipient of a
22 grant under this Section to use the grant award for repayment
23 of the recipient's educational loan.

1 (c) A person is a qualified applicant under this Section
2 if he or she meets all of the following qualifications:

3 (1) The person is a United States citizen or eligible
4 noncitizen.

5 (2) The person is a resident of this State.

6 (3) The person is a borrower with an outstanding
7 balance due on an educational loan related to obtaining a
8 degree in social work.

9 (4) The person has been employed as a school social
10 worker by a public elementary school or secondary school
11 in this State for at least 12 consecutive months.

12 (5) The person is currently employed as a school
13 social worker by a public elementary school or secondary
14 school in this State.

15 (d) An applicant shall submit an application, in a form
16 determined by the Commission, for grant assistance under this
17 Section to the Commission. An applicant is required to submit,
18 with the application, supporting documentation as the
19 Commission may deem necessary.

20 (e) The Commission shall give priority to an applicant who
21 is a member of an underrepresented community in the school
22 social work field in Illinois.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
24 2022.