



Sen. Javier L. Cervantes

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10300HB1378sam001

LRB103 04756 RJT 61066 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1378

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 1378 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. This Act may be referred to as the Illinois
5 Graduate and Retain Our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Law.

6 Section 5. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
7 Section 5.990 as follows:

8 (30 ILCS 105/5.990 new)

9 Sec. 5.990. The Illinois Graduate and Retain Our Workforce
10 (iGROW) Tech Scholarship Fund.

11 Section 10. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
12 amended by adding Section 65.120 as follows:

13 (110 ILCS 947/65.120 new)

1 Sec. 65.120. IGROW Tech Scholarship Program.

2 (a) As used in this Section:

3 "Eligible applicant" means a student who has graduated
4 from high school or has received a State of Illinois High
5 School Diploma, who has maintained a cumulative grade point
6 average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, who is pursuing or
7 intends to pursue a qualifying degree in a qualified
8 institution, and who is entitled to apply for assistance under
9 this Section.

10 "Full-time" means the number of credit hours the
11 Commission determines is full-time enrollment for a student
12 for purposes of the program created under this Section.

13 "Minority student" has the same meaning as the term is
14 defined under Section 50 of the Higher Education Student
15 Assistance Act (110 ILCS 947).

16 "Program" means the iGROW Tech Scholarship Program created
17 under this Section.

18 "Qualifying degree" means an associate or a bachelor's
19 degree granted by a qualified institution in the field of
20 computer information sciences; information technology;
21 information science; computer science; computer systems
22 networking and telecommunications; computer and information
23 systems security or information assurance, including
24 cybersecurity; or management information systems.

25 "Qualifying job" means a job with an employer in this
26 State performing work that is directly related to the field of

1 study that qualified the candidate for assistance under this
2 Section.

3 "Qualified student" means a person (i) who is a resident
4 of this State; (ii) who, as an eligible applicant, has made a
5 timely application for an iGROW tech scholarship under this
6 Section; (iii) who is enrolled on at least a half-time basis at
7 a qualified institution; (iv) who is enrolled in a course of
8 study in the field of computer and information sciences;
9 information technology; information science; computer science;
10 computer systems networking and telecommunications; computer
11 and information systems security or information assurance,
12 including cybersecurity; or management information systems;
13 (v) who maintains a grade point average of no less than a 2.5
14 on a 4.0 scale; and (vi) who continues to advance
15 satisfactorily toward the attainment of a degree.

16 "Recipient" means an Illinois resident enrolled in a
17 qualified institution who receives an award under this
18 Section.

19 (b) Subject to appropriation, and no sooner than the
20 2024-2025 academic year, there is established the Illinois
21 Graduate and Retain Our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Scholarship
22 Program to recruit and train individuals to work in technology
23 jobs that have a high demand for new employees and offer high
24 wages by awarding scholarships.

25 (c) Each iGROW tech scholarship awarded under this Section
26 shall be determined by the Commission in an amount up to and

1 including the full costs of tuition and fees and room and board
2 of the qualified institution at which the recipient is
3 enrolled if the institution is public, or an equivalent rate
4 established by the Commission for private institutions. The
5 total amount of iGROW tech scholarship assistance awarded by
6 the Commission under this Section to an eligible applicant in
7 any given fiscal year, when added to other financial
8 assistance awarded to that individual for that year, shall not
9 exceed the cost of attendance at the institution at which the
10 student is enrolled. If the amount of financial assistance to
11 be awarded to a qualified student exceeds the cost of
12 attendance at the institution at which the student is
13 enrolled, the iGROW tech scholarship shall be reduced by an
14 amount equal to the amount by which the combined financial
15 assistance available to the student exceeds the cost of
16 attendance.

17 (d) The maximum number of academic terms for which a
18 qualified student can receive iGROW tech scholarship
19 assistance shall be 8 semesters or 12 quarters.

20 (e) All applications for scholarships awarded under this
21 Section shall be made to the Commission on forms which the
22 Commission shall provide for eligible applicants. The form of
23 applications and the information required to be set forth
24 therein shall be determined by the Commission, and the
25 Commission shall require eligible applicants to submit with
26 their applications such supporting documents or

1 recommendations as the Commission deems necessary.

2 (f) Subject to appropriation for such purposes, payment of
3 any iGROW tech scholarship awarded under this Section shall be
4 determined by the Commission. All scholarship funds
5 distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be paid
6 to the qualified institution and used only for payment of the
7 tuition and fees assessed by the institution and the standard
8 housing and food allowance used for all undergraduate students
9 by the qualified student in connection with his or her
10 attendance at a qualified institution.

11 Any iGROW tech scholarship awarded under this Section
12 shall be applicable to 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment
13 annually. The qualified institution can only request payment
14 for tuition and fees up to the amount of actual tuition and fee
15 expenses incurred.

16 If a student withdraws after the expiration of the tuition
17 refund or withdrawal adjustment period, the student may
18 receive payment for tuition and fees incurred up to the term
19 award. The housing and food allowance shall be prorated based
20 on the qualified institution's return of funds policy.

21 (g) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
22 academic year, each recipient of an iGROW tech scholarship
23 awarded under this Section shall be required by the Commission
24 to sign an agreement under which the recipient pledges that
25 the recipient (i) shall work in the State in a qualified job
26 for a period of not less than one year for each year of

1 scholarship assistance he or she was awarded under this
2 Section; however, in no event shall he or she agree to work in
3 the State in a qualified job for a period of less than 2 years;
4 and (ii) shall, upon request by the Commission, provide the
5 Commission with evidence that he or she is fulfilling or has
6 fulfilled the terms of the agreement provided for in this
7 subsection.

8 If a recipient of an iGROW tech scholarship awarded under
9 this Section fails to fulfill the obligations set forth in
10 this subsection, the Commission shall require the recipient to
11 repay the amount of the scholarships received, prorated
12 according to the fraction of the employment obligation not
13 completed, at a rate of interest equal to 5%, and, if
14 applicable, reasonable collection fees. The Commission is
15 authorized to establish rules relating to its collection
16 activities for repayment of scholarships under this Section.
17 All repayments collected under this Section shall be forwarded
18 to the State Comptroller for deposit into the State's General
19 Revenue Fund.

20 A recipient of an iGROW tech scholarship shall not be
21 considered in violation of the agreement entered into pursuant
22 to this subsection if the recipient (I) enrolls on a full-time
23 basis as a graduate student in a course of study related to the
24 technology degree for which he or she qualified for the iGROW
25 tech scholarship at a qualified institution; (II) is serving,
26 not in excess of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of

1 the United States; (III) is a person with a temporary total
2 disability for a period of time not to exceed 3 years as
3 established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (IV)
4 is seeking and unable to find full-time employment with a
5 State employer that satisfies the criteria set forth in this
6 subsection and is able to provide evidence of that fact; (V)
7 becomes a person with a permanent total disability as
8 established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; or
9 (VI) meets any other criteria that the Commission may deem
10 necessary.

11 (h) Scholarship recipients under this Section who withdraw
12 from a program of computer science or other related major area
13 of study provided under this Section but remain enrolled in
14 school to continue their postsecondary studies in another
15 academic discipline shall not be required to commence
16 repayment of their iGROW tech scholarship so long as they
17 remain enrolled in school on a full-time basis or if they can
18 document for the Commission special circumstances that warrant
19 extension of repayment.

20 (i) If the Program does not expend at least 90% of the
21 amount appropriated for the Program in a given fiscal year for
22 3 consecutive fiscal years on or before January 1 in each of
23 those fiscal years, then up to 3% of amount appropriated for
24 the Program for each of next 3 fiscal years shall be allocated
25 to increasing awareness of the program.

26 (j) The Commission shall administer the Program and shall

1 make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this
2 Section for its effective implementation.

3 (k) The Commission shall establish a methodology for
4 prioritizing applications from applicants who demonstrate a
5 financial need or hardship, applications from minority
6 students, and applications from applicants demonstrating
7 academic excellence. After the first academic year that the
8 Program operates, the Commission shall prioritize the
9 applications of those applicants who received a scholarship
10 under this Section during the prior academic year and who
11 remain eligible for a scholarship under this Section.

12 (l) Each fiscal year, the Commission may use up to 5% of
13 money appropriated for the Program for administration.

14 (m) Scholarships may be made under this Section through
15 the 2029-30 academic year.

16 (n) The Illinois Graduate and Retain Our Workforce (iGROW)
17 Tech Scholarship Fund is created as a special fund in the State
18 treasury. Moneys in the fund may come from both public
19 entities and institutional, organizational, or other private
20 entities. All money in the Fund shall be used, subject to
21 appropriation, by the Commission to implement and administer
22 the Program pursuant to this Section.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
24 1, 2024."