

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 changing Sections 50, 52, and 65.15 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/50)

7 Sec. 50. Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship
8 program.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "Eligible applicant" means a minority student who has
11 graduated from high school or has received a State of
12 Illinois High School Diploma and has maintained a
13 cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0
14 scale, and who by reason thereof is entitled to apply for
15 scholarships to be awarded under this Section.

16 "Minority student" means a student who is any of the
17 following:

18 (1) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person
19 having origins in any of the original peoples of North
20 and South America, including Central America, and who
21 maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment).

22 (2) Asian (a person having origins in any of the
23 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or

1 the Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited
2 to, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,
3 Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and
4 Vietnam).

5 (3) Black or African American (a person having
6 origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa).

7 (4) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban,
8 Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or
9 other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race).

10 (5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a
11 person having origins in any of the original peoples
12 of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).

13 "Qualified bilingual minority applicant" means a
14 qualified student who demonstrates proficiency in a
15 language other than English by (i) receiving a State Seal
16 of Biliteracy from the State Board of Education or (ii)
17 receiving a passing score on an educator licensure target
18 language proficiency test.

19 "Qualified student" means a person (i) who is a
20 resident of this State and a citizen or permanent resident
21 of the United States; (ii) who is a minority student, as
22 defined in this Section; (iii) who, as an eligible
23 applicant, has made a timely application for a minority
24 teaching scholarship under this Section; (iv) who is
25 enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a qualified
26 Illinois institution of higher learning; (v) who is

1 enrolled in a course of study leading to teacher
2 licensure, including alternative teacher licensure, or, if
3 the student is already licensed to teach, in a course of
4 study leading to an additional teaching endorsement or a
5 master's degree in an academic field in which he or she is
6 teaching or plans to teach or who has received one or more
7 College and Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to
8 Section 80 of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness
9 Act and commits to enrolling in a course of study leading
10 to teacher licensure, including alternative teacher
11 licensure; (vi) who maintains a grade point average of no
12 less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and (vii) who continues to
13 advance satisfactorily toward the attainment of a degree.

14 (b) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois
15 minority students to pursue teaching careers at the preschool
16 or elementary or secondary school level and to address and
17 alleviate the teacher shortage crisis in this State described
18 under the provisions of the Transitions in Education Act, each
19 qualified student shall be awarded a minority teacher
20 scholarship to any qualified Illinois institution of higher
21 learning. However, preference may be given to qualified
22 applicants enrolled at or above the junior level.

23 (c) Each minority teacher scholarship awarded under this
24 Section shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and
25 fees and room and board costs of the qualified Illinois
26 institution of higher learning at which the recipient is

1 enrolled, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000; except that in the
2 case of a recipient who does not reside on-campus at the
3 institution at which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the
4 scholarship shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee
5 expenses and a commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of
6 \$5,000. However, if at least \$2,850,000 is appropriated in a
7 given fiscal year for the Minority Teachers of Illinois
8 scholarship program, then, in each fiscal year thereafter,
9 each scholarship awarded under this Section shall be in an
10 amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees and room and
11 board costs of the qualified Illinois institution of higher
12 learning at which the recipient is enrolled, up to an annual
13 maximum of \$7,500; except that in the case of a recipient who
14 does not reside on-campus at the institution at which he or she
15 is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship shall be sufficient
16 to pay tuition and fee expenses and a commuter allowance, up to
17 an annual maximum of \$7,500.

18 (d) The total amount of minority teacher scholarship
19 assistance awarded by the Commission under this Section to an
20 individual in any given fiscal year, when added to other
21 financial assistance awarded to that individual for that year,
22 shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the institution at
23 which the student is enrolled. If the amount of minority
24 teacher scholarship to be awarded to a qualified student as
25 provided in subsection (c) of this Section exceeds the cost of
26 attendance at the institution at which the student is

1 enrolled, the minority teacher scholarship shall be reduced by
2 an amount equal to the amount by which the combined financial
3 assistance available to the student exceeds the cost of
4 attendance.

5 (e) The maximum number of academic terms for which a
6 qualified student can receive minority teacher scholarship
7 assistance shall be 8 semesters or 12 quarters.

8 (f) In any academic year for which an eligible applicant
9 under this Section accepts financial assistance through the
10 Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, as authorized by
11 Section 551 et seq. of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the
12 applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance
13 awarded under this Section.

14 (g) All applications for minority teacher scholarships to
15 be awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission
16 on forms which the Commission shall provide for eligible
17 applicants. The form of applications and the information
18 required to be set forth therein shall be determined by the
19 Commission, and the Commission shall require eligible
20 applicants to submit with their applications such supporting
21 documents or recommendations as the Commission deems
22 necessary.

23 (h) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,
24 payment of any minority teacher scholarship awarded under this
25 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship
26 funds distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be

1 paid to the institution and used only for payment of the
2 tuition and fee and room and board expenses incurred by the
3 student in connection with his or her attendance at a
4 qualified Illinois institution of higher learning. Any
5 minority teacher scholarship awarded under this Section shall
6 be applicable to 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment. If a
7 qualified student withdraws from enrollment prior to
8 completion of the first semester or quarter for which the
9 minority teacher scholarship is applicable, the school shall
10 refund to the Commission the full amount of the minority
11 teacher scholarship.

12 (i) The Commission shall administer the minority teacher
13 scholarship aid program established by this Section and shall
14 make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this
15 Section for its effective implementation.

16 (j) When an appropriation to the Commission for a given
17 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all
18 qualified students, the Commission shall allocate the
19 appropriation in accordance with this subsection. If funds are
20 insufficient to provide all qualified students with a
21 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission
22 shall allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal
23 year to qualified students who submit a complete application
24 form on or before a date specified by the Commission based on
25 the following order of priority:

26 (1) To students who received a scholarship under this

1 Section in the prior academic year and who remain eligible
2 for a minority teacher scholarship under this Section.

3 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (k), to
4 students who demonstrate financial need, as determined by
5 the Commission.

6 (k) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subsection (j), at
7 least 35% of the funds appropriated for scholarships awarded
8 under this Section in each fiscal year shall be reserved for
9 qualified male minority applicants, with priority being given
10 to qualified Black male applicants beginning with fiscal year
11 2023. If the Commission does not receive enough applications
12 from qualified male minorities on or before January 1 of each
13 fiscal year to award 35% of the funds appropriated for these
14 scholarships to qualified male minority applicants, then the
15 Commission may award a portion of the reserved funds to
16 qualified female minority applicants in accordance with
17 subsection (j).

18 Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$2,850,000
19 but less than \$4,200,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal
20 year for scholarships awarded under this Section, then at
21 least 10% of the funds appropriated shall be reserved for
22 qualified bilingual minority applicants, with priority being
23 given to qualified bilingual minority applicants who are
24 enrolled in an educator preparation program with a
25 concentration in bilingual, bicultural education. Beginning
26 with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$4,200,000 is appropriated

1 in a given fiscal year for the Minority Teachers of Illinois
2 scholarship program, then at least 30% of the funds
3 appropriated shall be reserved for qualified bilingual
4 minority applicants, with priority being given to qualified
5 bilingual minority applicants who are enrolled in an educator
6 preparation program with a concentration in bilingual,
7 bicultural education. Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at
8 least \$2,850,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal year for
9 scholarships awarded under this Section but the Commission
10 does not receive enough applications from qualified bilingual
11 minority applicants on or before January 1 of that fiscal year
12 to award at least 10% of the funds appropriated to qualified
13 bilingual minority applicants, then the Commission may, in its
14 discretion, award a portion of the reserved funds to other
15 qualified students in accordance with subsection (j).

16 (1) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
17 academic year, each recipient of a minority teacher
18 scholarship awarded under this Section shall be required by
19 the Commission to sign an agreement under which the recipient
20 pledges that, within the one-year period following the
21 termination of the program for which the recipient was awarded
22 a minority teacher scholarship, the recipient (i) shall begin
23 teaching for a period of not less than one year for each year
24 of scholarship assistance he or she was awarded under this
25 Section; (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a
26 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool,

1 elementary school, or secondary school at which no less than
2 30% of the enrolled students are minority students in the year
3 during which the recipient begins teaching at the school or
4 may instead, if the recipient received a scholarship as a
5 qualified bilingual minority applicant, fulfill this teaching
6 obligation in a program in transitional bilingual education
7 pursuant to Article 14C of the School Code or in a school in
8 which 20 or more English learner students in the same language
9 classification are enrolled; and (iii) shall, upon request by
10 the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence that he
11 or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching
12 agreement provided for in this subsection.

13 (m) If a recipient of a minority teacher scholarship
14 awarded under this Section fails to fulfill the teaching
15 obligation set forth in subsection (l) of this Section, the
16 Commission shall require the recipient to repay the amount of
17 the scholarships received, prorated according to the fraction
18 of the teaching obligation not completed, at a rate of
19 interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable
20 collection fees. If a recipient who enters into repayment
21 under this subsection (m) subsequently, within 5 years of
22 entering repayment, begins to teach at a school meeting the
23 description under subsection (l) of this Section, the
24 Commission may reduce the amount owed by the recipient in
25 proportion to the amount of the teaching obligation completed.
26 The Commission is authorized to establish rules relating to

1 its collection activities for repayment of scholarships under
2 this Section. All repayments collected under this Section
3 shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller for deposit into
4 the State's General Revenue Fund.

5 (n) A recipient of minority teacher scholarship shall not
6 be considered in violation of the agreement entered into
7 pursuant to subsection (l) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a
8 full time basis as a graduate student in a course of study
9 related to the field of teaching at a qualified Illinois
10 institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not in excess
11 of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the United
12 States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total disability
13 for a period of time not to exceed 3 years as established by
14 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) is seeking and
15 unable to find full time employment as a teacher at an Illinois
16 public, private, or parochial preschool or elementary or
17 secondary school that satisfies the criteria set forth in
18 subsection (l) of this Section and is able to provide evidence
19 of that fact; (v) becomes a person with a permanent total
20 disability as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified
21 physician; (vi) is taking additional courses, on at least a
22 half-time basis, needed to obtain licensure as a teacher in
23 Illinois; or (vii) is fulfilling teaching requirements
24 associated with other programs administered by the Commission
25 and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a
26 period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.

1 (o) Scholarship recipients under this Section who withdraw
2 from a program of teacher education but remain enrolled in
3 school to continue their postsecondary studies in another
4 academic discipline shall not be required to commence
5 repayment of their Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship
6 so long as they remain enrolled in school on a full-time basis
7 or if they can document for the Commission special
8 circumstances that warrant extension of repayment.

9 (p) If the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship
10 program does not expend at least 90% of the amount
11 appropriated for the program in a given fiscal year for 3
12 consecutive fiscal years and the Commission does not receive
13 enough applications from the groups identified in subsection
14 (k) on or before January 1 in each of those fiscal years to
15 meet the percentage reserved for those groups under subsection
16 (k), then up to 3% of amount appropriated for the program for
17 each of next 3 fiscal years shall be allocated to increasing
18 awareness of the program and for the recruitment of Black male
19 applicants. The Commission shall make a recommendation to the
20 General Assembly by January 1 of the year immediately
21 following the end of that third fiscal year regarding whether
22 the amount allocated to increasing awareness and recruitment
23 should continue.

24 (q) Each qualified Illinois institution of higher learning
25 that receives funds from the Minority Teachers of Illinois
26 scholarship program shall host an annual information session

1 at the institution about the program for teacher candidates of
2 color in accordance with rules adopted by the Commission.
3 Additionally, the institution shall ensure that each
4 scholarship recipient enrolled at the institution meets with
5 an academic advisor at least once per academic year to
6 facilitate on-time completion of the recipient's educator
7 preparation program.

8 (r) The changes made to this Section by Public Act 101-654
9 will first take effect with awards made for the 2022-2023
10 academic year.

11 (Source: P.A. 101-654, eff. 3-8-21; 102-465, eff. 1-1-22;
12 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23.)

13 (110 ILCS 947/52)

14 Sec. 52. Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program; Golden
15 Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

16 (a) In this Section, "Foundation" means the Golden Apple
17 Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, a registered 501(c)(3)
18 not-for-profit corporation.

19 (a-2) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois
20 students, especially minority students, to pursue teaching
21 careers, especially in teacher shortage disciplines (which
22 shall be defined to include early childhood education) or at
23 hard-to-staff schools (as defined by the Commission in
24 consultation with the State Board of Education), to provide
25 those students with the crucial mentoring, guidance, and

1 in-service support that will significantly increase the
2 likelihood that they will complete their full teaching
3 commitments and elect to continue teaching in targeted
4 disciplines and hard-to-staff schools, and to ensure that
5 students in this State will continue to have access to a pool
6 of highly-qualified teachers, each qualified student shall be
7 awarded a Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program
8 scholarship to any Illinois institution of higher learning.
9 The Commission shall administer the Golden Apple Scholars of
10 Illinois Program, which shall be managed by the Foundation
11 pursuant to the terms of a grant agreement meeting the
12 requirements of Section 4 of the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery
13 Act.

14 (a-3) For purposes of this Section, a qualified student
15 shall be a student who meets the following qualifications:

16 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or
17 eligible noncitizen of the United States;

18 (2) is a high school graduate or a person who has
19 received a State of Illinois High School Diploma;

20 (3) is enrolled or accepted, on at least a half-time
21 basis, at an institution of higher learning;

22 (4) is pursuing a postsecondary course of study
23 leading to initial certification or pursuing additional
24 course work needed to gain State Board of Education
25 approval to teach, including alternative teacher
26 licensure; and

1 (5) is a participant in programs managed by and is
2 approved to receive a scholarship from the Foundation.

3 (a-5) (Blank).

4 (b) (Blank).

5 (b-5) Funds designated for the Golden Apple Scholars of
6 Illinois Program shall be used by the Commission for the
7 payment of scholarship assistance under this Section or for
8 the award of grant funds, subject to the Illinois Grant Funds
9 Recovery Act, to the Foundation. Subject to appropriation,
10 awards of grant funds to the Foundation shall be made on an
11 annual basis and following an application for grant funds by
12 the Foundation.

13 (b-10) Each year, the Foundation shall include in its
14 application to the Commission for grant funds an estimate of
15 the amount of scholarship assistance to be provided to
16 qualified students during the grant period. Any amount of
17 appropriated funds exceeding the estimated amount of
18 scholarship assistance may be awarded by the Commission to the
19 Foundation for management expenses expected to be incurred by
20 the Foundation in providing the mentoring, guidance, and
21 in-service supports that will increase the likelihood that
22 qualified students will complete their teaching commitments
23 and elect to continue teaching in hard-to-staff schools. If
24 the estimate of the amount of scholarship assistance described
25 in the Foundation's application is less than the actual amount
26 required for the award of scholarship assistance to qualified

1 students, the Foundation shall be responsible for using
2 awarded grant funds to ensure all qualified students receive
3 scholarship assistance under this Section.

4 (b-15) All grant funds not expended or legally obligated
5 within the time specified in a grant agreement between the
6 Foundation and the Commission shall be returned to the
7 Commission within 45 days. Any funds legally obligated by the
8 end of a grant agreement shall be liquidated within 45 days or
9 otherwise returned to the Commission within 90 days after the
10 end of the grant agreement that resulted in the award of grant
11 funds.

12 (c) Each scholarship awarded under this Section shall be
13 in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees and room
14 and board costs of the Illinois institution of higher learning
15 at which the recipient is enrolled, up to an annual maximum of
16 \$5,000; except that, in the case of a recipient who does not
17 reside on campus ~~on campus~~ at the institution of higher
18 learning at which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the
19 scholarship shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee
20 expenses and a commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of
21 \$5,000. All scholarship funds distributed in accordance with
22 this Section shall be paid to the institution on behalf of
23 recipients.

24 (d) The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded by
25 the Commission under this Section to an individual in any
26 given fiscal year, when added to other financial assistance

1 awarded to that individual for that year, shall not exceed the
2 cost of attendance at the institution of higher learning at
3 which the student is enrolled. In any academic year for which a
4 qualified student under this Section accepts financial
5 assistance through any other teacher scholarship program
6 administered by the Commission, a qualified student shall not
7 be eligible for scholarship assistance awarded under this
8 Section.

9 (e) A recipient may receive up to 8 semesters or 12
10 quarters of scholarship assistance under this Section.
11 Scholarship funds are applicable toward 2 semesters or 3
12 quarters of enrollment each academic year.

13 (f) All applications for scholarship assistance to be
14 awarded under this Section shall be made to the Foundation in a
15 form determined by the Foundation. Each year, the Foundation
16 shall notify the Commission of the individuals awarded
17 scholarship assistance under this Section. Each year, at least
18 30% of the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program
19 scholarships shall be awarded to students residing in counties
20 having a population of less than 500,000.

21 (g) (Blank).

22 (h) The Commission shall administer the payment of
23 scholarship assistance provided through the Golden Apple
24 Scholars of Illinois Program and shall make all necessary and
25 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for the
26 effective implementation of this Section.

1 (i) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
2 academic year, each recipient of a scholarship awarded under
3 this Section shall be required by the Foundation to sign an
4 agreement under which the recipient pledges that, within the
5 2-year period following the termination of the academic
6 program for which the recipient was awarded a scholarship, the
7 recipient: (i) shall begin teaching for a period of not less
8 than 5 years, (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a
9 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or
10 an Illinois public elementary or secondary school that
11 qualifies for teacher loan cancellation under Section
12 465(a)(2)(A) of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
13 U.S.C. 1087ee(a)(2)(A)) or other Illinois schools deemed
14 eligible for fulfilling the teaching commitment as designated
15 by the Foundation, and (iii) shall, upon request of the
16 Foundation, provide the Foundation with evidence that he or
17 she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching
18 agreement provided for in this subsection. Upon request, the
19 Foundation shall provide evidence of teacher fulfillment to
20 the Commission.

21 (j) If a recipient of a scholarship awarded under this
22 Section fails to fulfill the teaching obligation set forth in
23 subsection (i) of this Section, the Commission shall require
24 the recipient to repay the amount of the scholarships
25 received, prorated according to the fraction of the teaching
26 obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and, if

1 applicable, reasonable collection fees. If a recipient who
2 enters into repayment under this subsection (j) subsequently,
3 within 5 years of entering repayment, begins to teach at a
4 school meeting the description under subsection (i) of this
5 Section, the Commission may reduce the amount owed by the
6 recipient in proportion to the amount of the teaching
7 obligation completed. Reduction of the amount owed shall not
8 be construed as reinstatement in the Golden Apple Scholars
9 program. Reinstatement in the program shall be solely at the
10 discretion of the Golden Apple Foundation on terms determined
11 by the Foundation. Payments received by the Commission under
12 this subsection (j) shall be remitted to the State Comptroller
13 for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, except that that
14 portion of a recipient's repayment that equals the amount in
15 expenses that the Commission has reasonably incurred in
16 attempting collection from that recipient shall be remitted to
17 the State Comptroller for deposit into the ISAC Accounts
18 Receivable Fund, a special fund in the State treasury.

19 (k) A recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Foundation
20 under this Section shall not be considered to have failed to
21 fulfill the teaching obligations of the agreement entered into
22 pursuant to subsection (i) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a
23 full-time basis as a graduate student in a course of study
24 related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher
25 learning; (ii) is serving as a member of the armed services of
26 the United States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total

1 disability, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified
2 physician; (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time
3 employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the
4 criteria set forth in subsection (i) and is able to provide
5 evidence of that fact; (v) is taking additional courses, on at
6 least a half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a
7 teacher in Illinois; (vi) is fulfilling teaching requirements
8 associated with other programs administered by the Commission
9 and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a
10 period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation;
11 or (vii) is participating in a program established under
12 Executive Order 10924 of the President of the United States or
13 the federal National Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
14 12501 et seq.). Any such extension of the period during which
15 the teaching requirement must be fulfilled shall be subject to
16 limitations of duration as established by the Commission.

17 (l) A recipient who fails to fulfill the teaching
18 obligations of the agreement entered into pursuant to
19 subsection (i) of this Section shall repay the amount of
20 scholarship assistance awarded to them under this Section
21 within 10 years.

22 (m) Annually, at a time determined by the Commission in
23 consultation with the Foundation, the Foundation shall submit
24 a report to assist the Commission in monitoring the
25 Foundation's performance of grant activities. The report shall
26 describe the following:

1 (1) the Foundation's anticipated expenditures for the
2 next fiscal year;

3 (2) the number of qualified students receiving
4 scholarship assistance at each institution of higher
5 learning where a qualified student was enrolled under this
6 Section during the previous fiscal year;

7 (3) the total monetary value of scholarship funds paid
8 to each institution of higher learning at which a
9 qualified student was enrolled during the previous fiscal
10 year;

11 (4) the number of scholarship recipients who completed
12 a baccalaureate degree during the previous fiscal year;

13 (5) the number of scholarship recipients who fulfilled
14 their teaching obligation during the previous fiscal year;

15 (6) the number of scholarship recipients who failed to
16 fulfill their teaching obligation during the previous
17 fiscal year;

18 (7) the number of scholarship recipients granted an
19 extension described in subsection (k) of this Section
20 during the previous fiscal year;

21 (8) the number of scholarship recipients required to
22 repay scholarship assistance in accordance with subsection
23 (j) of this Section during the previous fiscal year;

24 (9) the number of scholarship recipients who
25 successfully repaid scholarship assistance in full during
26 the previous fiscal year;

1 (10) the number of scholarship recipients who
2 defaulted on their obligation to repay scholarship
3 assistance during the previous fiscal year;

4 (11) the amount of scholarship assistance subject to
5 collection in accordance with subsection (j) of this
6 Section at the end of the previous fiscal year;

7 (12) the amount of collected funds to be remitted to
8 the Comptroller in accordance with subsection (j) of this
9 Section at the end of the previous fiscal year; and

10 (13) other information that the Commission may
11 reasonably request.

12 (n) Nothing in this Section shall affect the rights of the
13 Commission to collect moneys owed to it by recipients of
14 scholarship assistance through the Illinois Future Teacher
15 Corps Program, repealed by Public Act 98-533.

16 (o) The Auditor General shall prepare an annual audit of
17 the operations and finances of the Golden Apple Scholars of
18 Illinois Program. This audit shall be provided to the
19 Governor, General Assembly, and the Commission.

20 (p) The suspension of grant making authority found in
21 Section 4.2 of the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act shall not
22 apply to grants made pursuant to this Section.

23 (Source: P.A. 102-1071, eff. 6-10-22; 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23;
24 revised 12-13-22.)

25 (110 ILCS 947/65.15)

1 Sec. 65.15. Special education teacher scholarships.

2 (a) There shall be awarded annually 250 scholarships to
3 persons qualifying as members of any of the following groups:

4 (1) Students who are otherwise qualified to receive a
5 scholarship as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this
6 Section and who make application to the Commission for
7 such scholarship and agree to take courses that will
8 prepare the student for the teaching of children described
9 in Section 14-1 of the School Code.

10 (2) Persons holding a valid certificate issued under
11 the laws relating to the certification of teachers and who
12 make application to the Commission for such scholarship
13 and agree to take courses that will prepare them for the
14 teaching of children described in Section 14-1 of the
15 School Code.

16 (3) Persons who (A) have graduated high school; (B)
17 have not been certified as a teacher; and (C) make
18 application to the Commission for such scholarship and
19 agree to take courses that will prepare them for the
20 teaching of children described in Section 14-1 of the
21 School Code.

22 Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be issued
23 pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Commission;
24 provided that no rule or regulation promulgated by the State
25 Board of Education prior to the effective date of this
26 amendatory Act of 1993 pursuant to the exercise of any right,

1 power, duty, responsibility or matter of pending business
2 transferred from the State Board of Education to the
3 Commission under this Section shall be affected thereby, and
4 all such rules and regulations shall become the rules and
5 regulations of the Commission until modified or changed by the
6 Commission in accordance with law.

7 For the purposes of this Section scholarships awarded each
8 school year shall be deemed to be issued on July 1 of the year
9 prior to the start of the postsecondary school term and all
10 calculations for use of the scholarship shall be based on such
11 date. Each scholarship shall entitle its holder to exemption
12 from fees as provided in subsection (a) of Section 65.40 while
13 enrolled in a special education program of teacher education,
14 for a period of not more than 4 calendar years and shall be
15 available for use at any time during such period of study
16 except as provided in subsection (b) of Section 65.40.

17 Scholarships issued to holders of a valid certificate
18 issued under the laws relating to the certification of
19 teachers as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection may
20 also entitle the holder thereof to a program of teacher
21 education that will prepare the student for the teaching of
22 children described in Section 14-1 of the School Code at the
23 graduate level.

24 (b) The principal, or his or her designee, of an approved
25 high school shall certify to the Commission, for students who
26 are Illinois residents and are completing an application, that

1 the students ranked scholastically in the upper one-half of
2 their graduating class at the end of the sixth semester.

3 (c) Each holder of a scholarship must furnish proof to the
4 Commission, in such form and at such intervals as the
5 Commission prescribes, of the holder's continued enrollment in
6 a teacher education program qualifying the holder for the
7 scholarship. Any holder of a scholarship who fails to register
8 in a special education program of teacher education at the
9 university within 10 days after the commencement of the term,
10 quarter or semester immediately following the receipt of the
11 scholarship or who, having registered, withdraws from the
12 university or transfers out of teacher education, shall
13 thereupon forfeit the right to use it and it may be granted to
14 the person having the next highest rank as shown on the list
15 held by the Commission. If the person having the next highest
16 rank, within 10 days after notification thereof by the
17 Commission, fails to register at any such university in a
18 special education program of teacher education, or who, having
19 registered, withdraws from the university or transfers out of
20 teacher education, the scholarship may then be granted to the
21 person shown on the list as having the rank next below such
22 person.

23 (d) Any person who has accepted a scholarship under the
24 preceding subsections of this Section must, within one year
25 after graduation from or termination of enrollment in a
26 teacher education program, begin teaching at a nonprofit

1 Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or elementary
2 or secondary school for a period of at least 2 of the 5 years
3 immediately following that graduation or termination,
4 excluding, however, from the computation of that 5 year period
5 (i) any time up to 3 years spent in the military service,
6 whether such service occurs before or after the person
7 graduates; (ii) any time that person is enrolled full-time in
8 an academic program related to the field of teaching leading
9 to a graduate or postgraduate degree; (iii) the time that
10 person is a person with a temporary total disability for a
11 period of time not to exceed 3 years, as established by the
12 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) the time that
13 person is seeking and unable to find full time employment as a
14 teacher at an Illinois public, private, or parochial school;
15 (v) the time that person is taking additional courses, on at
16 least a half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a
17 teacher in Illinois; or (vi) the time that person is
18 fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other
19 programs administered by the Commission if he or she cannot
20 concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a period of
21 time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.

22 A person who has accepted a scholarship under the
23 preceding subsections of this Section and who has been unable
24 to fulfill the teaching requirements of this Section may
25 receive a deferment from the obligation of repayment under
26 this subsection (d) under guidelines established by the

1 Commission; provided that no guideline established for any
2 such purpose by the State Board of Education prior to the
3 effective date of this amendatory Act of 1993 shall be
4 affected by the transfer to the Commission of the
5 responsibility for administering and implementing the
6 provisions of this Section, and all guidelines so established
7 shall become the guidelines of the Commission until modified
8 or changed by the Commission.

9 Any such person who fails to fulfill this teaching
10 requirement shall pay to the Commission the amount of tuition
11 waived by virtue of his or her acceptance of the scholarship,
12 together with interest at 5% per year on that amount. However,
13 this obligation to repay the amount of tuition waived plus
14 interest does not apply when the failure to fulfill the
15 teaching requirement results from the death or adjudication as
16 a person under legal disability of the person holding the
17 scholarship, and no claim for repayment may be filed against
18 the estate of such a decedent or person under legal
19 disability. If a recipient who enters into repayment under
20 this paragraph subsequently, within 5 years of entering
21 repayment, begins to teach at a school meeting the description
22 under this subsection (d), the Commission may reduce the
23 amount owed by the recipient in proportion to the amount of the
24 teaching obligation completed. Payments received by the
25 Commission under this subsection (d) shall be remitted to the
26 State Treasurer for deposit in the General Revenue Fund. Each

1 person receiving a scholarship shall be provided with a
2 description of the provisions of this subsection (d) at the
3 time he or she qualifies for the benefits of such a
4 scholarship.

5 (e) This Section is basically the same as Sections 30-1,
6 30-2, 30-3, and 30-4a of the School Code, which are repealed by
7 this amendatory Act of 1993, and shall be construed as a
8 continuation of the teacher scholarship program established by
9 that prior law, and not as a new or different teacher
10 scholarship program. The State Board of Education shall
11 transfer to the Commission, as the successor to the State
12 Board of Education for all purposes of administering and
13 implementing the provisions of this Section, all books,
14 accounts, records, papers, documents, contracts, agreements,
15 and pending business in any way relating to the teacher
16 scholarship program continued under this Section; and all
17 scholarships at any time awarded under that program by, and
18 all applications for any such scholarships at any time made
19 to, the State Board of Education shall be unaffected by the
20 transfer to the Commission of all responsibility for the
21 administration and implementation of the teacher scholarship
22 program continued under this Section. The State Board of
23 Education shall furnish to the Commission such other
24 information as the Commission may request to assist it in
25 administering this Section.

26 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

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