

SB3703



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB3703

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Sen. Paul Faraci

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/65.125 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that, subject to appropriation, beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall establish a nursing student stipend program to reimburse eligible applicants for the pre-licensure nursing program cost incurred during the previous academic year from a baccalaureate degree nursing program. Sets forth provisions concerning application for a stipend, the amount of the stipend, the pre-licensure nursing program cost, the distribution of funds, information on the stipend program, and rulemaking. Effective July 1, 2025.

LRB103 38234 RJT 68368 b

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 65.125 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.125 new)

7 Sec. 65.125. Nursing student stipend program.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "Baccalaureate degree nursing program" means a
10 pre-licensure nursing program or an accelerated nursing
11 program that is offered by an institution of higher learning
12 and leads to a baccalaureate degree of science in nursing.

13 "Eligible applicant" means a person who:

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

16 (2) was enrolled in a baccalaureate degree nursing
17 program during the previous academic year;

18 (3) maintained satisfactory academic progress during
19 the previous academic year; and

20 (4) applies for a nursing student stipend under this
21 Section within the application period established by the
22 Commission.

23 "Pre-licensure nursing program cost" means the fees for

1 all of the following: a criminal background check and drug
2 screening, a physical examination, required immunizations, a
3 uniform and any other required clothing, a stethoscope, blood
4 pressure equipment, scissors, a hemostat, a nursing student
5 identification badge, cardiopulmonary resuscitation
6 certification, the National Council of State Boards of
7 Nursing's NCLEX application, a criminal background check for
8 the NCLEX, applications, or licenses or any other costs
9 required to complete a clinical program in a baccalaureate
10 degree nursing program, as determined by the Commission. The
11 Commission may adopt rules regarding which products are
12 included under this definition.

13 "Program" means the nursing student stipend program
14 established under this Section.

15 (b) Subject to appropriation, beginning with the 2025-2026
16 academic year, the Commission shall establish a nursing
17 student stipend program to reimburse eligible applicants for
18 the pre-licensure nursing program cost incurred during the
19 previous academic year from a baccalaureate degree nursing
20 program. The Commission shall, on an annual basis, receive and
21 consider applications for nursing student stipends under the
22 program and provide a nursing student stipend to each eligible
23 applicant in the following amounts:

24 (1) An eligible applicant who was a part-time student
25 during the previous academic year shall receive a stipend
26 in the amount of 5% of the pre-licensure nursing program

1 cost for the previous academic year and an additional \$50
2 to assist with travel expenses incurred to and from
3 clinical components during the previous academic year.

4 (2) An eligible applicant who was a full-time student
5 during the previous academic year shall receive a stipend
6 in the amount of 7.5% of the pre-licensure nursing program
7 cost for the previous academic year and an additional \$100
8 to assist with travel expenses incurred to and from
9 clinical components during the previous academic year.

10 (3) An eligible applicant who, during the previous
11 academic year, completed a baccalaureate degree nursing
12 program in one year or less after initially enrolling in
13 the nursing program shall receive a stipend in the amount
14 of 15% of the pre-licensure nursing program cost for the
15 previous academic year and an additional \$200 to assist
16 with travel expenses incurred to and from clinical
17 components during the previous academic year.

18 (c) On an annual basis, as determined by the Commission,
19 an institution of higher learning shall report the
20 pre-licensure nursing program cost of the baccalaureate degree
21 nursing program for the previous academic year. The Commission
22 shall determine, based on the reported pre-licensure nursing
23 program cost, how much an eligible applicant shall receive
24 under the program.

25 (d) An application for a nursing student stipend under the
26 program shall be made to the Commission on forms that the

1 Commission shall provide to an eligible applicant. The form of
2 application and the information required shall be determined
3 by the Commission, and the Commission shall require an
4 eligible applicant to submit with the application any
5 supporting documents or recommendations that the Commission
6 deems necessary.

7 (e) Subject to appropriation for such purposes, the
8 payment method for the nursing student stipend under this
9 Section shall be determined by the Commission. Any nursing
10 student stipend funds distributed in accordance with the
11 program shall be given to the recipient of the nursing student
12 stipend.

13 (f) An eligible applicant applying as a part-time student
14 may apply for and receive a nursing student stipend under the
15 program for up to 6 semesters or 12 quarters. An eligible
16 applicant applying as a full-time student may apply for and
17 receive a nursing student stipend under the program for up to 4
18 semesters or 8 quarters.

19 (g) An institution of higher learning with a baccalaureate
20 degree in nursing program shall provide information on the
21 institution of higher learning's Internet website that informs
22 both current and prospective pre-licensure nursing students
23 about the program.

24 (h) The Commission may adopt any rules necessary to
25 implement and administer this Section.

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,

SB3703

- 5 -

LRB103 38234 RJT 68368 b

1 2025.