

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 65.90 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.90 new)

7 Sec. 65.90. Medical assistant grants.

8 (a) Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year through the
9 2020-2021 academic year, the Commission shall, each year,
10 receive and consider applications for grant assistance under
11 this Section. An applicant is eligible for a grant under this
12 Section if the Commission finds that the applicant meets all of
13 the following qualifications:

14 (1) He or she is a resident of this State and a United
15 States citizen or eligible noncitizen.

16 (2) He or she is enrolled or accepted for enrollment in
17 a medical assistant program at a public community college
18 in this State that will lead to certification to work as a
19 medical assistant.

20 (b) Recipients shall be selected from among applicants
21 qualified pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section based on
22 financial need, as determined by the Commission. Preference may
23 be given to previous recipients of assistance under this

1 Section, provided they continue to maintain eligibility and
2 maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the
3 institution at which they enroll.

4 (c) Each grant awarded under this Section shall be in an
5 amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees of the
6 institution at which the recipient is enrolled, except that no
7 recipient may receive more than \$5,000 in a single academic
8 year.

9 (d) The total amount of grant assistance awarded by the
10 Commission under this Section to an individual in any given
11 fiscal year, when added to other financial assistance awarded
12 to that individual for that year, shall not exceed the cost of
13 attendance at the institution at which the student is enrolled.

14 (e) All applications for grant assistance to be awarded
15 under this Section shall be made to the Commission in a form as
16 set forth by the Commission. The form of application and the
17 information required to be set forth in the application shall
18 be determined by the Commission, and the Commission shall
19 require eligible applicants to submit with their applications
20 such supporting documents as the Commission deems necessary.

21 (f) Subject to a separate appropriation made for such
22 purposes, payment of any grants awarded under this Section
23 shall be determined by the Commission. All grant funds
24 distributed in accordance with this Section shall be paid to
25 the institution on behalf of the recipients. Grant funds are
26 applicable toward 2 semesters of enrollment within an academic

1 year. Up to 2% of the appropriation for this grant program may
2 be used by the Commission for the costs of administering the
3 grant program.

4 (g) The Commission shall administer the grant program
5 established by this Section and shall make all necessary and
6 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for its
7 effective implementation.