



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

SB1710

Introduced 2/20/2015, by Sen. Chapin Rose

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/35
110 ILCS 947/38

Amends the monetary award program provisions of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that if a recipient of a monetary award program grant is not permitted to continue attending a higher education institution because he or she is not earning the minimum grades needed to continue to attend the institution, then that person may not receive a grant during the following academic year; provides for rulemaking. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to request that the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators or a committee designated by this association from among its membership make recommendations on possible changes to how the Commission determines the number of grants to be offered and to whom they are offered. Requires institutions to provide specified information concerning grant recipients to the Commission, if requested, to demonstrate the value of the program and determine where improvements could be made; makes related changes.

LRB099 08608 NHT 28771 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

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 changing Sections 35 and 38 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/35)

7 Sec. 35. Monetary award program.

8 (a) The Commission shall, each year, receive and consider
9 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Subject
10 to a separate appropriation for such purposes, an applicant is
11 eligible for a grant under this Section when the Commission
12 finds that the applicant:

13 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or
14 permanent resident of the United States; and

15 (2) in the absence of grant assistance, will be
16 deterred by financial considerations from completing an
17 educational program at the qualified institution of his or
18 her choice.

19 (b) The Commission shall award renewals only upon the
20 student's application and upon the Commission's finding that
21 the applicant:

22 (1) has remained a student in good standing;

23 (2) remains a resident of this State; and

1 (3) is in a financial situation that continues to
2 warrant assistance.

3 However, if a recipient of a grant under this Section is not
4 permitted to continue attending an institution because he or
5 she is not earning the minimum grades needed to continue to
6 attend the institution, then that person may not receive a
7 grant under this Section during the following academic year.
8 The Commission may adopt any rules necessary for the
9 enforcement of this prohibition.

10 (c) All grants shall be applicable only to tuition and
11 necessary fee costs. The Commission shall determine the grant
12 amount for each student, which shall not exceed the smallest of
13 the following amounts:

14 (1) subject to appropriation, \$5,468 for fiscal year
15 2009, \$5,968 for fiscal year 2010, and \$6,468 for fiscal
16 year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, or such lesser
17 amount as the Commission finds to be available, during an
18 academic year;

19 (2) the amount which equals 2 semesters or 3 quarters
20 tuition and other necessary fees required generally by the
21 institution of all full-time undergraduate students; or

22 (3) such amount as the Commission finds to be
23 appropriate in view of the applicant's financial
24 resources.

25 Subject to appropriation, the maximum grant amount for
26 students not subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection (c)

1 must be increased by the same percentage as any increase made
2 by law to the maximum grant amount under subdivision (1) of
3 this subsection (c).

4 "Tuition and other necessary fees" as used in this Section
5 include the customary charge for instruction and use of
6 facilities in general, and the additional fixed fees charged
7 for specified purposes, which are required generally of
8 nongrant recipients for each academic period for which the
9 grant applicant actually enrolls, but do not include fees
10 payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent
11 deposits which are refundable in whole or in part. The
12 Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with this
13 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of
14 tuition and other necessary fees.

15 (d) No applicant, including those presently receiving
16 scholarship assistance under this Act, is eligible for monetary
17 award program consideration under this Act after receiving a
18 baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit
19 hours of award payments.

20 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to
21 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with
22 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The Commission
23 shall notify applicants that grant assistance is contingent
24 upon the availability of appropriated funds.

25 The Commission shall request that the Illinois Association
26 of Student Financial Aid Administrators, or a committee

1 designated by this association from among its membership, make
2 recommendations on possible changes to how the Commission
3 determines the number of grants to be offered and to whom they
4 are offered.

5 (e-5) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is an
6 important purpose of the Monetary Award Program to facilitate
7 access to college both for students who pursue postsecondary
8 education immediately following high school and for those who
9 pursue postsecondary education later in life, particularly
10 Illinoisans who are dislocated workers with financial need and
11 who are seeking to improve their economic position through
12 education. For the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years, the
13 Commission shall give additional and specific consideration to
14 the needs of dislocated workers with the intent of allowing
15 applicants who are dislocated workers an opportunity to secure
16 financial assistance even if applying later than the general
17 pool of applicants. The Commission's consideration shall
18 include, in determining the number of grants to be offered, an
19 estimate of the resources needed to serve dislocated workers
20 who apply after the Commission initially suspends award
21 announcements for the upcoming regular academic year, but prior
22 to the beginning of that academic year. For the purposes of
23 this subsection (e-5), a dislocated worker is defined as in the
24 federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

25 (f) The Commission may request appropriations for deposit
26 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund. Monies deposited

1 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund may be expended
2 exclusively for one purpose: to make Monetary Award Program
3 grants to eligible students. Amounts on deposit in the Monetary
4 Award Program Reserve Fund may not exceed 2% of the current
5 annual State appropriation for the Monetary Award Program.

6 The purpose of the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund is
7 to enable the Commission each year to assure as many students
8 as possible of their eligibility for a Monetary Award Program
9 grant and to do so before commencement of the academic year.
10 Moneys deposited in this Reserve Fund are intended to enhance
11 the Commission's management of the Monetary Award Program,
12 minimizing the necessity, magnitude, and frequency of
13 adjusting award amounts and ensuring that the annual Monetary
14 Award Program appropriation can be fully utilized.

15 (g) The Commission shall determine the eligibility of and
16 make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit
17 institutions in accordance with the criteria set forth in this
18 Section. The eligibility of applicants enrolled at such
19 for-profit institutions shall be limited as follows:

20 (1) Beginning with the academic year 1997, only to
21 eligible first-time freshmen and first-time transfer
22 students who have attained an associate degree.

23 (2) Beginning with the academic year 1998, only to
24 eligible freshmen students, transfer students who have
25 attained an associate degree, and students who receive a
26 grant under paragraph (1) for the academic year 1997 and

1 whose grants are being renewed for the academic year 1998.

2 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all
3 eligible students.

4 (Source: P.A. 98-967, eff. 8-15-14.)

5 (110 ILCS 947/38)

6 Sec. 38. Monetary award program accountability.

7 (a) The Illinois Student Assistance Commission is directed
8 to assess the educational persistence of monetary award program
9 recipients. An assessment under this Section shall include an
10 analysis of such factors as undergraduate educational goals,
11 chosen field of study, retention rates, and expected time to
12 complete a degree. The assessment also shall include an
13 analysis of the academic success of monetary award program
14 recipients through a review of measures that are typically
15 associated with academic success, such as grade point average,
16 satisfactory academic progress, and credit hours earned. Each
17 analysis should take into consideration student class level,
18 dependency types, and the type of higher education institution
19 at which each monetary award program recipient is enrolled. The
20 Commission shall report its findings to the General Assembly
21 and the Board of Higher Education by February 1, 1999 and at
22 least every 2 years thereafter.

23 (b) To demonstrate the value of the monetary award program
24 and determine where improvements could be made, institutions
25 shall provide information concerning grant recipients to the

1 Commission if requested, including without limitation the
2 following:

3 (1) Completion and graduation rates.

4 (2) Courses attempted versus courses completed.

5 (3) The number of remedial courses undertaken, the
6 names of these courses, and the success rate of these
7 courses.

8 (4) Chosen fields of study.

9 (5) The receipt of institutional financial aid, how
10 much of that aid is merit-only aid, how much is need-based
11 aid, and how this aid dovetails with State and federal
12 financial aid.

13 The Commission may consult with the Illinois Association of
14 Student Financial Aid Administrators to develop guidelines for
15 the information to be provided under this subsection (b).

16 Each year, the Commission shall compile the information
17 provided under this subsection (b) in a report to be submitted
18 to the General Assembly and the Governor.

19 (Source: P.A. 90-486, eff. 8-17-97; 90-488, eff. 8-17-97.)