

1 AN ACT regarding higher education student assistance.

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
5 is amended by changing Section 36 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/36)

7 Sec. 36. Illinois Incentive for Access grant program.

8 (a) The Commission each year shall determine eligibility
9 for the Illinois Incentive for Access grant from applications
10 received for Monetary Award Program grant assistance under
11 Section 35 of this Act. An applicant shall be determined as
12 eligible for an Illinois Incentive for Access grant under
13 this Section when the Commission finds that the applicant:

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

16 (2) has limited no personal or family financial
17 resources available for expenditure on educational
18 expenses, as defined by current federal student financial
19 aid methodology;

20 (3) has not already received a baccalaureate
21 degree; and

22 (4) is enrolled at least one-half time as a
23 freshman or, beginning with the 2003-2004 academic year,
24 sophomore undergraduate student at an approved Illinois
25 institution of higher learning participating in the
26 Monetary Award Program administered by the Commission.

27 (b) Subject to a separate appropriation made for
28 purposes of awarding grants under this Section, Illinois
29 Incentive for Access grants shall be paid in multiple
30 disbursements as determined by the Commission in an amount
31 not to exceed the following \$500 per applicant per year:

1 (1) \$750 for the 2002-2003 academic year and \$1,000
2 for the 2003-2004 and subsequent academic years for
3 applicants with an expected family contribution of \$0, as
4 defined by current federal student aid methodology;

5 (2) \$375 for the 2002-2003 academic year for
6 applicants with an expected family contribution of \$375
7 or less but more than \$0, as defined by current federal
8 student aid methodology; and

9 (3) \$500 for the 2003-2004 and subsequent academic
10 years for applicants with an expected family contribution
11 of \$500 or less but more than \$0, as defined by current
12 federal student aid methodology.

13 In awarding grants, the Commission shall give priority to
14 applicants with an expected family contribution of \$0. No
15 recipient may receive a grant under this Section for more
16 than 2 semesters or 3 quarters of award payments. Beginning
17 with the 2003-2004 academic year, however, a recipient may
18 not receive a grant under this Section for more than 4
19 semesters or 6 quarters of award payments.

20 (c) Eligibility for grants awarded under this Section
21 shall be determined solely on the basis of the financial
22 resources of the applicant and the applicant's family. Cost
23 of attendance at the institution in which the applicant is
24 enrolled shall not affect eligibility for an award, except
25 that State student financial assistance awarded under this
26 Act, including the Illinois Incentive for Access award, may
27 not exceed the institution's cost of attendance.

28 (d) The Commission shall notify applicants that grant
29 assistance is contingent upon availability of appropriated
30 funds.

31 (e) The Commission shall submit a written evaluation of
32 the Illinois Incentive for Access program to the Governor,
33 the General Assembly, and the Board of Higher Education on or
34 before October 1, 1999, including a report of the progress

1 made toward the goal of increasing the access and retention
2 rates for Illinois Incentive for Access grant recipients.
3 (Source: P.A. 89-512, eff. 7-11-96.)

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
5 2002.