

AN ACT concerning education.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 1. Legislative intent. It is the intent of this Act to increase enrollment at public 4-year universities in this State by providing those universities with the option for additional funding through a new, merit-based and means-tested matching scholarship for Illinois students. It is also the intent of this Act that any public university participating in this program should, in its best efforts, attempt to delegate scholarship funds amongst a racially diverse range of students and not use a student's race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, or pregnancy), national origin, age, disability, or genetic information to disqualify him or her from receiving funds under the program.

Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is amended by changing Section 10 and adding Section 65.100 as follows:

(110 ILCS 947/10)

Sec. 10. Definitions. In this Act, and except to the extent that any of the following words or phrases is specifically qualified by its context:

"Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance Commission created by this Act.

"Enrollment" means the establishment and maintenance of an individual's status as a student in an institution of higher learning, regardless of the terms used at the institution to describe that status.

"Approved high school" means any public high school located in this State; and any high school, located in this State or elsewhere (whether designated as a high school, secondary school, academy, preparatory school, or otherwise) which in the judgment of the State Superintendent of Education provides a course of instruction at the secondary level and maintains standards of instruction substantially equivalent to those of the public high schools located in this State.

"Institution of higher learning", "qualified institution", or "institution" means an educational organization located in this State which

(1) provides at least an organized 2 year program of collegiate grade in the liberal arts or sciences, or both, directly applicable toward the attainment of a baccalaureate degree or a program in health education directly applicable toward the attainment of a certificate, diploma, or an associate degree;

(2) either is

(A) operated by this State, or

(B) operated publicly or privately, not for

profit, or

(C) operated for profit, provided such for profit organization

(i) offers degree programs which have been approved by the Board of Higher Education for a minimum of 3 years under the Academic Degree Act, and

(ii) enrolls a majority of its students in such degree programs, and

(iii) maintains an accredited status with the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;

(3) in the judgment of the Commission meets standards substantially equivalent to those of comparable institutions operated by this State; and

(4) if so required by the Commission, uses the State as its primary guarantor of student loans made under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965.

For otherwise eligible educational organizations which provide academic programs for incarcerated students, the terms "institution of higher learning", "qualified institutions", and "institution" shall specifically exclude academic programs for incarcerated students.

"Academic Year" means a 12 month period of time, normally but not exclusively, from September 1 of any year through

August 31 of the ensuing year.

"Full-time student" means any undergraduate student enrolled in 12 or more semester or quarter hours of credit courses in any given semester or quarter or in the equivalent number of units of registration as determined by the Commission.

"Part-time student" means any undergraduate student, other than a full-time student, enrolled in 6 or more semester or quarter hours of credit courses in any given semester or quarter or in the equivalent number of units of registration as determined by the Commission. Beginning with fiscal year 1999, the Commission may, on a program by program basis, expand this definition of "part-time student" to include students who enroll in less than 6 semester or quarter hours of credit courses in any given semester or quarter.

"Public university" means any public 4-year university in this State.

"Public university campus" means any campus under the governance or supervision of a public university.

(Source: P.A. 90-122, eff. 7-17-97; 91-250, eff. 7-22-99.)

(110 ILCS 947/65.100 new)

Sec. 65.100. AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program.

(a) The General Assembly makes all of the following findings:

(1) Both access and affordability are important

aspects of the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success report.

(2) This State is in the top quartile with respect to the percentage of family income needed to pay for college.

(3) Research suggests that as loan amounts increase, rather than an increase in grant amounts, the probability of college attendance decreases.

(4) There is further research indicating that socioeconomic status may affect the willingness of students to use loans to attend college.

(5) Strategic use of tuition discounting can decrease the amount of loans that students must use to pay for tuition.

(6) A modest, individually tailored tuition discount can make the difference in a student choosing to attend college and enhance college access for low-income and middle-income families.

(7) Even if the federally calculated financial need for college attendance is met, the federally determined Expected Family Contribution can still be a daunting amount.

(8) This State is the second largest exporter of students in the country.

(9) When talented Illinois students attend universities in this State, the State and those universities benefit.

(10) State universities in other states have adopted pricing and incentives that allow many Illinois residents to pay less to attend an out-of-state university than to remain in this State for college.

(11) Supporting Illinois student attendance at Illinois public universities can assist in State efforts to maintain and educate a highly trained workforce.

(12) Modest tuition discounts that are individually targeted and tailored can result in enhanced revenue for public universities.

(13) By increasing a public university's capacity to strategically use tuition discounting, the public university will be capable of creating enhanced tuition revenue by increasing enrollment yields.

(b) In this Section:

"Eligible applicant" means a student from any high school in this State, whether or not recognized by the State Board of Education, who is engaged in a program of study that in due course will be completed by the end of the school year and who meets all of the qualifications and requirements under this Section.

"Tuition and other necessary fees" includes the customary charge for instruction and use of facilities in general and the additional fixed fees charged for specified purposes that are required generally of non-grant recipients for each academic period for which the grant applicant actually enrolls, but does

not include fees payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent deposits that are refundable in whole or in part. The Commission may adopt, by rule not inconsistent with this Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of tuition and other necessary fees.

(c) Beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, each public university may establish a merit-based scholarship pilot program known as the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program. Each year, the Commission shall receive and consider applications from public universities under this Section. Subject to appropriation and any tuition waiver limitation established by the Board of Higher Education, a public university campus may award a grant to a student under this Section if it finds that the applicant meets all of the following criteria:

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

(2) He or she files a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and demonstrates financial need with a household income no greater than 6 times the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

(3) He or she meets the minimum cumulative grade point average or ACT or SAT college admissions test score, as determined by the public university campus.

(4) He or she is enrolled in a public university as an

undergraduate student on a full-time basis.

(5) He or she has not yet received a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours.

(6) He or she is not incarcerated.

(7) He or she is not in default on any student loan or does not owe a refund or repayment on any State or federal grant or scholarship.

(8) Any other reasonable criteria, as determined by the public university campus.

(d) Each public university campus shall determine grant renewal criteria consistent with the requirements under this Section.

(e) Each participating public university campus shall post on its Internet website criteria and eligibility requirements for receiving awards that use funds under this Section that includes a range in the sizes of these individual awards. The criteria and amounts must also be reported to the Commission and the Board of Higher Education, who shall post the information on their respective Internet websites.

(f) After enactment of an appropriation for this Program, the Commission shall determine an allocation of funds to each public university in an amount proportionate to the number of undergraduate students who are residents of this State and citizens or eligible noncitizens of the United States and who were enrolled at each public university campus in the previous academic year. All applications must be made to the Commission

on or before a date determined by the Commission and on forms that the Commission shall provide to each public university campus. The form of the application and the information required shall be determined by the Commission and shall include, without limitation, the total public university campus funds used to match funds received from the Commission in the previous academic year under this Section, if any, the total enrollment of undergraduate students who are residents of this State from the previous academic year, and any supporting documents as the Commission deems necessary. Each public university campus shall match the amount of funds received by the Commission with financial aid for eligible students.

A public university campus is not required to claim its entire allocation. The Commission shall make available to all public universities, on a date determined by the Commission, any unclaimed funds and the funds must be made available to those public university campuses in the proportion determined under this subsection (f), excluding from the calculation those public university campuses not claiming their full allocations.

Each public university campus may determine the award amounts for eligible students on an individual or broad basis, but, subject to renewal eligibility, each renewed award may not be less than the amount awarded to the eligible student in his or her first year attending the public university campus. Notwithstanding this limitation, a renewal grant may be reduced

due to changes in the student's cost of attendance, including, but not limited to, if a student reduces the number of credit hours in which he or she is enrolled, but remains a full-time student, or switches to a course of study with a lower tuition rate.

An eligible applicant awarded grant assistance under this Section is eligible to receive other financial aid. Total grant aid to the student from all sources may not exceed the total cost of attendance at the public university campus.

(g) All money allocated to a public university campus under this Section may be used only for financial aid purposes for students attending the public university campus during the academic year, not including summer terms. Any funds received by a public university campus under this Section that are not granted to students in the academic year for which the funds are received must be refunded to the Commission before any new funds are received by the public university campus for the next academic year.

(h) Each public university campus that establishes a Program under this Section must annually report to the Commission, on or before a date determined by the Commission, the number of undergraduate students enrolled at that campus who are residents of this State.

(i) Each public university campus must report to the Commission the total non-loan financial aid amount given by the public university campus to undergraduate students in fiscal

year 2018. To be eligible to receive funds under the Program, a public university campus may not decrease the total amount of non-loan financial aid for undergraduate students to an amount lower than the total non-loan financial aid amount given by the public university campus to undergraduate students in fiscal year 2018, not including any funds received from the Commission under this Section or any funds used to match grant awards under this Section.

(j) On or before a date determined by the Commission, each public university campus that participates in the Program under this Section shall annually submit a report to the Commission with all of the following information:

(1) The Program's impact on tuition revenue and enrollment goals and increase in access and affordability at the public university campus.

(2) Total funds received by the public university campus under the Program.

(3) Total non-loan financial aid awarded to undergraduate students attending the public university campus.

(4) Total amount of funds matched by the public university campus.

(5) Total amount of funds refunded to the Commission by the public university campus.

(6) The percentage of total financial aid distributed under the Program by the public university campus.

(7) The total number of students receiving grants from the public university campus under the Program and those students' grade level, race, gender, income level, family size, Monetary Award Program eligibility, Pell Grant eligibility, and zip code of residence and the amount of each grant award. This information shall include unit record data on those students regarding variables associated with the parameters of the public university's Program, including, but not limited to, a student's ACT or SAT college admissions test score, high school or university cumulative grade point average, or program of study.

On or before October 1, 2020 and annually on or before October 1 thereafter, the Commission shall submit a report with the findings under this subsection (j) and any other information regarding the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program to (i) the Governor, (ii) the Speaker of the House of Representatives, (iii) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, (iv) the President of the Senate, and (v) the Minority Leader of the Senate. The reports to the General Assembly shall be filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate in electronic form only, in the manner that the Clerk and the Secretary shall direct. The Commission's report may not disaggregate data to a level that may disclose personally identifying information of individual students.

The sharing and reporting of student data under this

subsection (j) must be in accordance with the requirements under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Illinois School Student Records Act. All parties must preserve the confidentiality of the information as required by law. The names of the grant recipients under this Section are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Public university campuses that fail to submit a report under this subsection (j) or that fail to adhere to any other requirements under this Section may not be eligible for distribution of funds under the Program for the next academic year, but may be eligible for distribution of funds for each academic year thereafter.

(k) The Commission shall adopt rules to implement this Section.

(l) This Section is repealed on October 1, 2024.

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