

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 50, 52, and 65.15 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/50)

7 Sec. 50. Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship  
8 program.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "Eligible applicant" means a minority student who has  
11 graduated from high school or has received a State of  
12 Illinois High School Diploma and has maintained a  
13 cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0  
14 scale, and who by reason thereof is entitled to apply for  
15 scholarships to be awarded under this Section.

16 "Minority student" means a student who is any of the  
17 following:

18 (1) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person  
19 having origins in any of the original peoples of North  
20 and South America, including Central America, and who  
21 maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment).

22 (2) Asian (a person having origins in any of the  
23 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or

1 the Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited  
2 to, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,  
3 Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and  
4 Vietnam).

5 (3) Black or African American (a person having  
6 origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa).

7 (4) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban,  
8 Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or  
9 other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race).

10 (5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a  
11 person having origins in any of the original peoples  
12 of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).

13 "Qualified bilingual minority applicant" means a  
14 qualified student who demonstrates proficiency in a  
15 language other than English by (i) receiving a State Seal  
16 of Biliteracy from the State Board of Education or (ii)  
17 receiving a passing score on an educator licensure target  
18 language proficiency test.

19 "Qualified student" means a person (i) who is a  
20 resident of this State and a citizen or permanent resident  
21 of the United States; (ii) who is a minority student, as  
22 defined in this Section; (iii) who, as an eligible  
23 applicant, has made a timely application for a minority  
24 teaching scholarship under this Section; (iv) who is  
25 enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a qualified  
26 Illinois institution of higher learning; (v) who is

1 enrolled in a course of study leading to teacher  
2 licensure, including alternative teacher licensure, or, if  
3 the student is already licensed to teach, in a course of  
4 study leading to an additional teaching endorsement or a  
5 master's degree in an academic field in which he or she is  
6 teaching or plans to teach or who has received one or more  
7 College and Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to  
8 Section 80 of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness  
9 Act and commits to enrolling in a course of study leading  
10 to teacher licensure, including alternative teacher  
11 licensure; (vi) who maintains a grade point average of no  
12 less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and (vii) who continues to  
13 advance satisfactorily toward the attainment of a degree.

14 (b) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois  
15 minority students to pursue teaching careers at the preschool  
16 or elementary or secondary school level and to address and  
17 alleviate the teacher shortage crisis in this State described  
18 under the provisions of the Transitions in Education Act, each  
19 qualified student shall be awarded a minority teacher  
20 scholarship to any qualified Illinois institution of higher  
21 learning. However, preference may be given to qualified  
22 applicants enrolled at or above the junior level.

23 (c) Each minority teacher scholarship awarded under this  
24 Section shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and  
25 fees and room and board costs of the qualified Illinois  
26 institution of higher learning at which the recipient is

1 enrolled, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000; except that in the  
2 case of a recipient who does not reside on-campus at the  
3 institution at which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the  
4 scholarship shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee  
5 expenses and a commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of  
6 \$5,000. However, if at least \$2,850,000 is appropriated in a  
7 given fiscal year for the Minority Teachers of Illinois  
8 scholarship program, then, in each fiscal year thereafter,  
9 each scholarship awarded under this Section shall be in an  
10 amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees and room and  
11 board costs of the qualified Illinois institution of higher  
12 learning at which the recipient is enrolled, up to an annual  
13 maximum of \$7,500; except that in the case of a recipient who  
14 does not reside on-campus at the institution at which he or she  
15 is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship shall be sufficient  
16 to pay tuition and fee expenses and a commuter allowance, up to  
17 an annual maximum of \$7,500.

18 (d) The total amount of minority teacher scholarship  
19 assistance awarded by the Commission under this Section to an  
20 individual in any given fiscal year, when added to other  
21 financial assistance awarded to that individual for that year,  
22 shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the institution at  
23 which the student is enrolled. If the amount of minority  
24 teacher scholarship to be awarded to a qualified student as  
25 provided in subsection (c) of this Section exceeds the cost of  
26 attendance at the institution at which the student is

1 enrolled, the minority teacher scholarship shall be reduced by  
2 an amount equal to the amount by which the combined financial  
3 assistance available to the student exceeds the cost of  
4 attendance.

5 (e) The maximum number of academic terms for which a  
6 qualified student can receive minority teacher scholarship  
7 assistance shall be 8 semesters or 12 quarters.

8 (f) In any academic year for which an eligible applicant  
9 under this Section accepts financial assistance through the  
10 Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, as authorized by  
11 Section 551 et seq. of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the  
12 applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance  
13 awarded under this Section.

14 (g) All applications for minority teacher scholarships to  
15 be awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission  
16 on forms which the Commission shall provide for eligible  
17 applicants. The form of applications and the information  
18 required to be set forth therein shall be determined by the  
19 Commission, and the Commission shall require eligible  
20 applicants to submit with their applications such supporting  
21 documents or recommendations as the Commission deems  
22 necessary.

23 (h) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,  
24 payment of any minority teacher scholarship awarded under this  
25 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship  
26 funds distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be

1 paid to the institution and used only for payment of the  
2 tuition and fee and room and board expenses incurred by the  
3 student in connection with his or her attendance at a  
4 qualified Illinois institution of higher learning. Any  
5 minority teacher scholarship awarded under this Section shall  
6 be applicable to 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment. If a  
7 qualified student withdraws from enrollment prior to  
8 completion of the first semester or quarter for which the  
9 minority teacher scholarship is applicable, the school shall  
10 refund to the Commission the full amount of the minority  
11 teacher scholarship.

12 (i) The Commission shall administer the minority teacher  
13 scholarship aid program established by this Section and shall  
14 make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this  
15 Section for its effective implementation.

16 (j) When an appropriation to the Commission for a given  
17 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all  
18 qualified students, the Commission shall allocate the  
19 appropriation in accordance with this subsection. If funds are  
20 insufficient to provide all qualified students with a  
21 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission  
22 shall allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal  
23 year to qualified students who submit a complete application  
24 form on or before a date specified by the Commission based on  
25 the following order of priority:

26 (1) To students who received a scholarship under this

1 Section in the prior academic year and who remain eligible  
2 for a minority teacher scholarship under this Section.

3 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (k), to  
4 students who demonstrate financial need, as determined by  
5 the Commission.

6 (k) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subsection (j), at  
7 least 35% of the funds appropriated for scholarships awarded  
8 under this Section in each fiscal year shall be reserved for  
9 qualified male minority applicants, with priority being given  
10 to qualified Black male applicants beginning with fiscal year  
11 2023. If the Commission does not receive enough applications  
12 from qualified male minorities on or before January 1 of each  
13 fiscal year to award 35% of the funds appropriated for these  
14 scholarships to qualified male minority applicants, then the  
15 Commission may award a portion of the reserved funds to  
16 qualified female minority applicants in accordance with  
17 subsection (j).

18 Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$2,850,000  
19 but less than \$4,200,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal  
20 year for scholarships awarded under this Section, then at  
21 least 10% of the funds appropriated shall be reserved for  
22 qualified bilingual minority applicants, with priority being  
23 given to qualified bilingual minority applicants who are  
24 enrolled in an educator preparation program with a  
25 concentration in bilingual, bicultural education. Beginning  
26 with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$4,200,000 is appropriated

1 in a given fiscal year for the Minority Teachers of Illinois  
2 scholarship program, then at least 30% of the funds  
3 appropriated shall be reserved for qualified bilingual  
4 minority applicants, with priority being given to qualified  
5 bilingual minority applicants who are enrolled in an educator  
6 preparation program with a concentration in bilingual,  
7 bicultural education. Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at  
8 least \$2,850,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal year for  
9 scholarships awarded under this Section but the Commission  
10 does not receive enough applications from qualified bilingual  
11 minority applicants on or before January 1 of that fiscal year  
12 to award at least 10% of the funds appropriated to qualified  
13 bilingual minority applicants, then the Commission may, in its  
14 discretion, award a portion of the reserved funds to other  
15 qualified students in accordance with subsection (j).

16 (1) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any  
17 academic year, each recipient of a minority teacher  
18 scholarship awarded under this Section shall be required by  
19 the Commission to sign an agreement under which the recipient  
20 pledges that, within the one-year period following the  
21 termination of the program for which the recipient was awarded  
22 a minority teacher scholarship, the recipient (i) shall begin  
23 teaching for a period of not less than one year for each year  
24 of scholarship assistance he or she was awarded under this  
25 Section; (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a  
26 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool,



1 elementary school, or secondary school at which no less than  
2 30% of the enrolled students are minority students in the year  
3 during which the recipient begins teaching at the school or  
4 may instead, if the recipient received a scholarship as a  
5 qualified bilingual minority applicant, fulfill this teaching  
6 obligation in a program in transitional bilingual education  
7 pursuant to Article 14C of the School Code or in a school in  
8 which 20 or more English learner students in the same language  
9 classification are enrolled; and (iii) shall, upon request by  
10 the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence that he  
11 or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching  
12 agreement provided for in this subsection.

13 (m) If a recipient of a minority teacher scholarship  
14 awarded under this Section fails to fulfill the teaching  
15 obligation set forth in subsection (l) of this Section, the  
16 Commission shall require the recipient to repay the amount of  
17 the scholarships received, prorated according to the fraction  
18 of the teaching obligation not completed, at a rate of  
19 interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable  
20 collection fees. If a recipient who enters into repayment  
21 under this subsection (m) subsequently teaches at a school  
22 meeting the description under subsection (l) of this Section,  
23 the Commission may reduce the amount owed by the recipient in  
24 proportion to the amount of the teaching obligation completed.  
25 The Commission is authorized to establish rules relating to  
26 its collection activities for repayment of scholarships under

1 this Section. All repayments collected under this Section  
2 shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller for deposit into  
3 the State's General Revenue Fund.

4 (n) A recipient of minority teacher scholarship shall not  
5 be considered in violation of the agreement entered into  
6 pursuant to subsection (l) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a  
7 full time basis as a graduate student in a course of study  
8 related to the field of teaching at a qualified Illinois  
9 institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving, not in excess  
10 of 3 years, as a member of the armed services of the United  
11 States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total disability  
12 for a period of time not to exceed 3 years as established by  
13 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) is seeking and  
14 unable to find full time employment as a teacher at an Illinois  
15 public, private, or parochial preschool or elementary or  
16 secondary school that satisfies the criteria set forth in  
17 subsection (l) of this Section and is able to provide evidence  
18 of that fact; (v) becomes a person with a permanent total  
19 disability as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified  
20 physician; (vi) is taking additional courses, on at least a  
21 half-time basis, needed to obtain licensure as a teacher in  
22 Illinois; or (vii) is fulfilling teaching requirements  
23 associated with other programs administered by the Commission  
24 and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a  
25 period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.

26 (o) Scholarship recipients under this Section who withdraw

1 from a program of teacher education but remain enrolled in  
2 school to continue their postsecondary studies in another  
3 academic discipline shall not be required to commence  
4 repayment of their Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship  
5 so long as they remain enrolled in school on a full-time basis  
6 or if they can document for the Commission special  
7 circumstances that warrant extension of repayment.

8 (p) If the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship  
9 program does not expend at least 90% of the amount  
10 appropriated for the program in a given fiscal year for 3  
11 consecutive fiscal years and the Commission does not receive  
12 enough applications from the groups identified in subsection  
13 (k) on or before January 1 in each of those fiscal years to  
14 meet the percentage reserved for those groups under subsection  
15 (k), then up to 3% of amount appropriated for the program for  
16 each of next 3 fiscal years shall be allocated to increasing  
17 awareness of the program and for the recruitment of Black male  
18 applicants. The Commission shall make a recommendation to the  
19 General Assembly by January 1 of the year immediately  
20 following the end of that third fiscal year regarding whether  
21 the amount allocated to increasing awareness and recruitment  
22 should continue.

23 (q) Each qualified Illinois institution of higher learning  
24 that receives funds from the Minority Teachers of Illinois  
25 scholarship program shall host an annual information session  
26 at the institution about the program for teacher candidates of

1 color in accordance with rules adopted by the Commission.  
2 Additionally, the institution shall ensure that each  
3 scholarship recipient enrolled at the institution meets with  
4 an academic advisor at least once per academic year to  
5 facilitate on-time completion of the recipient's educator  
6 preparation program.

7 (r) The changes made to this Section by Public Act 101-654  
8 will first take effect with awards made for the 2022-2023  
9 academic year.

10 (Source: P.A. 101-654, eff. 3-8-21; 102-465, eff. 1-1-22;  
11 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23.)

12 (110 ILCS 947/52)

13 Sec. 52. Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program; Golden  
14 Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

15 (a) In this Section, "Foundation" means the Golden Apple  
16 Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, a registered 501(c)(3)  
17 not-for-profit corporation.

18 (a-2) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois  
19 students, especially minority students, to pursue teaching  
20 careers, especially in teacher shortage disciplines (which  
21 shall be defined to include early childhood education) or at  
22 hard-to-staff schools (as defined by the Commission in  
23 consultation with the State Board of Education), to provide  
24 those students with the crucial mentoring, guidance, and  
25 in-service support that will significantly increase the

1 likelihood that they will complete their full teaching  
2 commitments and elect to continue teaching in targeted  
3 disciplines and hard-to-staff schools, and to ensure that  
4 students in this State will continue to have access to a pool  
5 of highly-qualified teachers, each qualified student shall be  
6 awarded a Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program  
7 scholarship to any Illinois institution of higher learning.  
8 The Commission shall administer the Golden Apple Scholars of  
9 Illinois Program, which shall be managed by the Foundation  
10 pursuant to the terms of a grant agreement meeting the  
11 requirements of Section 4 of the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery  
12 Act.

13 (a-3) For purposes of this Section, a qualified student  
14 shall be a student who meets the following qualifications:

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

17 (2) is a high school graduate or a person who has  
18 received a State of Illinois High School Diploma;

19 (3) is enrolled or accepted, on at least a half-time  
20 basis, at an institution of higher learning;

21 (4) is pursuing a postsecondary course of study  
22 leading to initial certification or pursuing additional  
23 course work needed to gain State Board of Education  
24 approval to teach, including alternative teacher  
25 licensure; and

26 (5) is a participant in programs managed by and is

1 approved to receive a scholarship from the Foundation.

2 (a-5) (Blank).

3 (b) (Blank).

4 (b-5) Funds designated for the Golden Apple Scholars of  
5 Illinois Program shall be used by the Commission for the  
6 payment of scholarship assistance under this Section or for  
7 the award of grant funds, subject to the Illinois Grant Funds  
8 Recovery Act, to the Foundation. Subject to appropriation,  
9 awards of grant funds to the Foundation shall be made on an  
10 annual basis and following an application for grant funds by  
11 the Foundation.

12 (b-10) Each year, the Foundation shall include in its  
13 application to the Commission for grant funds an estimate of  
14 the amount of scholarship assistance to be provided to  
15 qualified students during the grant period. Any amount of  
16 appropriated funds exceeding the estimated amount of  
17 scholarship assistance may be awarded by the Commission to the  
18 Foundation for management expenses expected to be incurred by  
19 the Foundation in providing the mentoring, guidance, and  
20 in-service supports that will increase the likelihood that  
21 qualified students will complete their teaching commitments  
22 and elect to continue teaching in hard-to-staff schools. If  
23 the estimate of the amount of scholarship assistance described  
24 in the Foundation's application is less than the actual amount  
25 required for the award of scholarship assistance to qualified  
26 students, the Foundation shall be responsible for using

1 awarded grant funds to ensure all qualified students receive  
2 scholarship assistance under this Section.

3 (b-15) All grant funds not expended or legally obligated  
4 within the time specified in a grant agreement between the  
5 Foundation and the Commission shall be returned to the  
6 Commission within 45 days. Any funds legally obligated by the  
7 end of a grant agreement shall be liquidated within 45 days or  
8 otherwise returned to the Commission within 90 days after the  
9 end of the grant agreement that resulted in the award of grant  
10 funds.

11 (c) Each scholarship awarded under this Section shall be  
12 in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees and room  
13 and board costs of the Illinois institution of higher learning  
14 at which the recipient is enrolled, up to an annual maximum of  
15 \$5,000; except that, in the case of a recipient who does not  
16 reside on campus ~~on campus~~ at the institution of higher  
17 learning at which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the  
18 scholarship shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee  
19 expenses and a commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of  
20 \$5,000. All scholarship funds distributed in accordance with  
21 this Section shall be paid to the institution on behalf of  
22 recipients.

23 (d) The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded by  
24 the Commission under this Section to an individual in any  
25 given fiscal year, when added to other financial assistance  
26 awarded to that individual for that year, shall not exceed the

1 cost of attendance at the institution of higher learning at  
2 which the student is enrolled. In any academic year for which a  
3 qualified student under this Section accepts financial  
4 assistance through any other teacher scholarship program  
5 administered by the Commission, a qualified student shall not  
6 be eligible for scholarship assistance awarded under this  
7 Section.

8 (e) A recipient may receive up to 8 semesters or 12  
9 quarters of scholarship assistance under this Section.  
10 Scholarship funds are applicable toward 2 semesters or 3  
11 quarters of enrollment each academic year.

12 (f) All applications for scholarship assistance to be  
13 awarded under this Section shall be made to the Foundation in a  
14 form determined by the Foundation. Each year, the Foundation  
15 shall notify the Commission of the individuals awarded  
16 scholarship assistance under this Section. Each year, at least  
17 30% of the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program  
18 scholarships shall be awarded to students residing in counties  
19 having a population of less than 500,000.

20 (g) (Blank).

21 (h) The Commission shall administer the payment of  
22 scholarship assistance provided through the Golden Apple  
23 Scholars of Illinois Program and shall make all necessary and  
24 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for the  
25 effective implementation of this Section.

26 (i) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any



1 academic year, each recipient of a scholarship awarded under  
2 this Section shall be required by the Foundation to sign an  
3 agreement under which the recipient pledges that, within the  
4 2-year period following the termination of the academic  
5 program for which the recipient was awarded a scholarship, the  
6 recipient: (i) shall begin teaching for a period of not less  
7 than 5 years, (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a  
8 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or  
9 an Illinois public elementary or secondary school that  
10 qualifies for teacher loan cancellation under Section  
11 465(a)(2)(A) of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
12 U.S.C. 1087ee(a)(2)(A)) or other Illinois schools deemed  
13 eligible for fulfilling the teaching commitment as designated  
14 by the Foundation, and (iii) shall, upon request of the  
15 Foundation, provide the Foundation with evidence that he or  
16 she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching  
17 agreement provided for in this subsection. Upon request, the  
18 Foundation shall provide evidence of teacher fulfillment to  
19 the Commission.

20 (j) If a recipient of a scholarship awarded under this  
21 Section fails to fulfill the teaching obligation set forth in  
22 subsection (i) of this Section, the Commission shall require  
23 the recipient to repay the amount of the scholarships  
24 received, prorated according to the fraction of the teaching  
25 obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and, if  
26 applicable, reasonable collection fees. If a recipient who

1 enters into repayment under this subsection (j) subsequently  
2 teaches at a school meeting the description under subsection  
3 (i) of this Section, the Commission may reduce the amount owed  
4 by the recipient in proportion to the amount of the teaching  
5 obligation completed. Payments received by the Commission  
6 under this subsection (j) shall be remitted to the State  
7 Comptroller for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, except  
8 that that portion of a recipient's repayment that equals the  
9 amount in expenses that the Commission has reasonably incurred  
10 in attempting collection from that recipient shall be remitted  
11 to the State Comptroller for deposit into the ISAC Accounts  
12 Receivable Fund, a special fund in the State treasury.

13 (k) A recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Foundation  
14 under this Section shall not be considered to have failed to  
15 fulfill the teaching obligations of the agreement entered into  
16 pursuant to subsection (i) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a  
17 full-time basis as a graduate student in a course of study  
18 related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher  
19 learning; (ii) is serving as a member of the armed services of  
20 the United States; (iii) is a person with a temporary total  
21 disability, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified  
22 physician; (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time  
23 employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the  
24 criteria set forth in subsection (i) and is able to provide  
25 evidence of that fact; (v) is taking additional courses, on at  
26 least a half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a

1 teacher in Illinois; (vi) is fulfilling teaching requirements  
2 associated with other programs administered by the Commission  
3 and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a  
4 period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation;  
5 or (vii) is participating in a program established under  
6 Executive Order 10924 of the President of the United States or  
7 the federal National Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
8 12501 et seq.). Any such extension of the period during which  
9 the teaching requirement must be fulfilled shall be subject to  
10 limitations of duration as established by the Commission.

11 (l) A recipient who fails to fulfill the teaching  
12 obligations of the agreement entered into pursuant to  
13 subsection (i) of this Section shall repay the amount of  
14 scholarship assistance awarded to them under this Section  
15 within 10 years.

16 (m) Annually, at a time determined by the Commission in  
17 consultation with the Foundation, the Foundation shall submit  
18 a report to assist the Commission in monitoring the  
19 Foundation's performance of grant activities. The report shall  
20 describe the following:

21 (1) the Foundation's anticipated expenditures for the  
22 next fiscal year;

23 (2) the number of qualified students receiving  
24 scholarship assistance at each institution of higher  
25 learning where a qualified student was enrolled under this  
26 Section during the previous fiscal year;

1           (3) the total monetary value of scholarship funds paid  
2 to each institution of higher learning at which a  
3 qualified student was enrolled during the previous fiscal  
4 year;

5           (4) the number of scholarship recipients who completed  
6 a baccalaureate degree during the previous fiscal year;

7           (5) the number of scholarship recipients who fulfilled  
8 their teaching obligation during the previous fiscal year;

9           (6) the number of scholarship recipients who failed to  
10 fulfill their teaching obligation during the previous  
11 fiscal year;

12           (7) the number of scholarship recipients granted an  
13 extension described in subsection (k) of this Section  
14 during the previous fiscal year;

15           (8) the number of scholarship recipients required to  
16 repay scholarship assistance in accordance with subsection  
17 (j) of this Section during the previous fiscal year;

18           (9) the number of scholarship recipients who  
19 successfully repaid scholarship assistance in full during  
20 the previous fiscal year;

21           (10) the number of scholarship recipients who  
22 defaulted on their obligation to repay scholarship  
23 assistance during the previous fiscal year;

24           (11) the amount of scholarship assistance subject to  
25 collection in accordance with subsection (j) of this  
26 Section at the end of the previous fiscal year;

1           (12) the amount of collected funds to be remitted to  
2           the Comptroller in accordance with subsection (j) of this  
3           Section at the end of the previous fiscal year; and

4           (13) other information that the Commission may  
5           reasonably request.

6           (n) Nothing in this Section shall affect the rights of the  
7           Commission to collect moneys owed to it by recipients of  
8           scholarship assistance through the Illinois Future Teacher  
9           Corps Program, repealed by Public Act 98-533.

10          (o) The Auditor General shall prepare an annual audit of  
11          the operations and finances of the Golden Apple Scholars of  
12          Illinois Program. This audit shall be provided to the  
13          Governor, General Assembly, and the Commission.

14          (p) The suspension of grant making authority found in  
15          Section 4.2 of the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act shall not  
16          apply to grants made pursuant to this Section.

17          (Source: P.A. 102-1071, eff. 6-10-22; 102-1100, eff. 1-1-23;  
18          revised 12-13-22.)

19                 (110 ILCS 947/65.15)

20                 Sec. 65.15. Special education teacher scholarships.

21                 (a) There shall be awarded annually 250 scholarships to  
22                 persons qualifying as members of any of the following groups:

23                         (1) Students who are otherwise qualified to receive a  
24                         scholarship as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this  
25                         Section and who make application to the Commission for

1           such scholarship and agree to take courses that will  
2           prepare the student for the teaching of children described  
3           in Section 14-1 of the School Code.

4           (2) Persons holding a valid certificate issued under  
5           the laws relating to the certification of teachers and who  
6           make application to the Commission for such scholarship  
7           and agree to take courses that will prepare them for the  
8           teaching of children described in Section 14-1 of the  
9           School Code.

10          (3) Persons who (A) have graduated high school; (B)  
11          have not been certified as a teacher; and (C) make  
12          application to the Commission for such scholarship and  
13          agree to take courses that will prepare them for the  
14          teaching of children described in Section 14-1 of the  
15          School Code.

16          Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be issued  
17          pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Commission;  
18          provided that no rule or regulation promulgated by the State  
19          Board of Education prior to the effective date of this  
20          amendatory Act of 1993 pursuant to the exercise of any right,  
21          power, duty, responsibility or matter of pending business  
22          transferred from the State Board of Education to the  
23          Commission under this Section shall be affected thereby, and  
24          all such rules and regulations shall become the rules and  
25          regulations of the Commission until modified or changed by the  
26          Commission in accordance with law.

1 For the purposes of this Section scholarships awarded each  
2 school year shall be deemed to be issued on July 1 of the year  
3 prior to the start of the postsecondary school term and all  
4 calculations for use of the scholarship shall be based on such  
5 date. Each scholarship shall entitle its holder to exemption  
6 from fees as provided in subsection (a) of Section 65.40 while  
7 enrolled in a special education program of teacher education,  
8 for a period of not more than 4 calendar years and shall be  
9 available for use at any time during such period of study  
10 except as provided in subsection (b) of Section 65.40.

11 Scholarships issued to holders of a valid certificate  
12 issued under the laws relating to the certification of  
13 teachers as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection may  
14 also entitle the holder thereof to a program of teacher  
15 education that will prepare the student for the teaching of  
16 children described in Section 14-1 of the School Code at the  
17 graduate level.

18 (b) The principal, or his or her designee, of an approved  
19 high school shall certify to the Commission, for students who  
20 are Illinois residents and are completing an application, that  
21 the students ranked scholastically in the upper one-half of  
22 their graduating class at the end of the sixth semester.

23 (c) Each holder of a scholarship must furnish proof to the  
24 Commission, in such form and at such intervals as the  
25 Commission prescribes, of the holder's continued enrollment in  
26 a teacher education program qualifying the holder for the

1 scholarship. Any holder of a scholarship who fails to register  
2 in a special education program of teacher education at the  
3 university within 10 days after the commencement of the term,  
4 quarter or semester immediately following the receipt of the  
5 scholarship or who, having registered, withdraws from the  
6 university or transfers out of teacher education, shall  
7 thereupon forfeit the right to use it and it may be granted to  
8 the person having the next highest rank as shown on the list  
9 held by the Commission. If the person having the next highest  
10 rank, within 10 days after notification thereof by the  
11 Commission, fails to register at any such university in a  
12 special education program of teacher education, or who, having  
13 registered, withdraws from the university or transfers out of  
14 teacher education, the scholarship may then be granted to the  
15 person shown on the list as having the rank next below such  
16 person.

17 (d) Any person who has accepted a scholarship under the  
18 preceding subsections of this Section must, within one year  
19 after graduation from or termination of enrollment in a  
20 teacher education program, begin teaching at a nonprofit  
21 Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or elementary  
22 or secondary school for a period of at least 2 of the 5 years  
23 immediately following that graduation or termination,  
24 excluding, however, from the computation of that 5 year period  
25 (i) any time up to 3 years spent in the military service,  
26 whether such service occurs before or after the person



1 graduates; (ii) any time that person is enrolled full-time in  
2 an academic program related to the field of teaching leading  
3 to a graduate or postgraduate degree; (iii) the time that  
4 person is a person with a temporary total disability for a  
5 period of time not to exceed 3 years, as established by the  
6 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) the time that  
7 person is seeking and unable to find full time employment as a  
8 teacher at an Illinois public, private, or parochial school;  
9 (v) the time that person is taking additional courses, on at  
10 least a half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a  
11 teacher in Illinois; or (vi) the time that person is  
12 fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other  
13 programs administered by the Commission if he or she cannot  
14 concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a period of  
15 time equal to the length of the teaching obligation.

16 A person who has accepted a scholarship under the  
17 preceding subsections of this Section and who has been unable  
18 to fulfill the teaching requirements of this Section may  
19 receive a deferment from the obligation of repayment under  
20 this subsection (d) under guidelines established by the  
21 Commission; provided that no guideline established for any  
22 such purpose by the State Board of Education prior to the  
23 effective date of this amendatory Act of 1993 shall be  
24 affected by the transfer to the Commission of the  
25 responsibility for administering and implementing the  
26 provisions of this Section, and all guidelines so established

1 shall become the guidelines of the Commission until modified  
2 or changed by the Commission.

3 Any such person who fails to fulfill this teaching  
4 requirement shall pay to the Commission the amount of tuition  
5 waived by virtue of his or her acceptance of the scholarship,  
6 together with interest at 5% per year on that amount. However,  
7 this obligation to repay the amount of tuition waived plus  
8 interest does not apply when the failure to fulfill the  
9 teaching requirement results from the death or adjudication as  
10 a person under legal disability of the person holding the  
11 scholarship, and no claim for repayment may be filed against  
12 the estate of such a decedent or person under legal  
13 disability. If a recipient who enters into repayment under  
14 this paragraph subsequently teaches at a school meeting the  
15 description under this subsection (d), the Commission may  
16 reduce the amount owed by the recipient in proportion to the  
17 amount of the teaching obligation completed. Payments received  
18 by the Commission under this subsection (d) shall be remitted  
19 to the State Treasurer for deposit in the General Revenue  
20 Fund. Each person receiving a scholarship shall be provided  
21 with a description of the provisions of this subsection (d) at  
22 the time he or she qualifies for the benefits of such a  
23 scholarship.

24 (e) This Section is basically the same as Sections 30-1,  
25 30-2, 30-3, and 30-4a of the School Code, which are repealed by  
26 this amendatory Act of 1993, and shall be construed as a

1 continuation of the teacher scholarship program established by  
2 that prior law, and not as a new or different teacher  
3 scholarship program. The State Board of Education shall  
4 transfer to the Commission, as the successor to the State  
5 Board of Education for all purposes of administering and  
6 implementing the provisions of this Section, all books,  
7 accounts, records, papers, documents, contracts, agreements,  
8 and pending business in any way relating to the teacher  
9 scholarship program continued under this Section; and all  
10 scholarships at any time awarded under that program by, and  
11 all applications for any such scholarships at any time made  
12 to, the State Board of Education shall be unaffected by the  
13 transfer to the Commission of all responsibility for the  
14 administration and implementation of the teacher scholarship  
15 program continued under this Section. The State Board of  
16 Education shall furnish to the Commission such other  
17 information as the Commission may request to assist it in  
18 administering this Section.

19 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

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