



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB2040

Introduced 2/9/2023, by Sen. Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 105/5.990 new
110 ILCS 947/50

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act with respect to the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship program. Provides that any money appropriated to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for scholarship awards for a particular academic year that remains unused at the end of that academic year shall be deposited into the Student Teaching Fund. Requires the Commission to establish and administer a student teaching stipend program in which the Commission receives and considers applications for a stipend from scholarship recipients who are student teaching. Subject to appropriation from the Student Teaching Fund, provides that the Commission shall select stipend recipients from among applicants who are in financial need. Provides that the amount and payment of any stipend shall be determined by the Commission, and provides for rulemaking. Amends the State Finance Act to create the Student Teaching Fund as a special fund in the State treasury.

LRB103 05001 NHT 55257 b

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 State Finance Act is amended by adding
5 Section 5.990 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.990 new)

7 Sec. 5.990. The Student Teaching Fund.

8 Section 10. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
9 amended by changing Section 50 as follows:

10 (110 ILCS 947/50)

11 Sec. 50. Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship
12 program.

13 (a) As used in this Section:

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

20 "Minority student" means a student who is any of the
21 following:

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

5 (2) Asian (a person having origins in any of the
6 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or
7 the Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited
8 to, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,
9 Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and
10 Vietnam).

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

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

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

19 "Qualified bilingual minority applicant" means a
20 qualified student who demonstrates proficiency in a
21 language other than English by (i) receiving a State Seal
22 of Biliteracy from the State Board of Education or (ii)
23 receiving a passing score on an educator licensure target
24 language proficiency test.

25 "Qualified student" means a person (i) who is a
26 resident of this State and a citizen or permanent resident

1 of the United States; (ii) who is a minority student, as
2 defined in this Section; (iii) who, as an eligible
3 applicant, has made a timely application for a minority
4 teaching scholarship under this Section; (iv) who is
5 enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a qualified
6 Illinois institution of higher learning; (v) who is
7 enrolled in a course of study leading to teacher
8 licensure, including alternative teacher licensure, or, if
9 the student is already licensed to teach, in a course of
10 study leading to an additional teaching endorsement or a
11 master's degree in an academic field in which he or she is
12 teaching or plans to teach or who has received one or more
13 College and Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to
14 Section 80 of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness
15 Act and commits to enrolling in a course of study leading
16 to teacher licensure, including alternative teacher
17 licensure; (vi) who maintains a grade point average of no
18 less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and (vii) who continues to
19 advance satisfactorily toward the attainment of a degree.

20 (b) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois
21 minority students to pursue teaching careers at the preschool
22 or elementary or secondary school level and to address and
23 alleviate the teacher shortage crisis in this State described
24 under the provisions of the Transitions in Education Act, each
25 qualified student shall be awarded a minority teacher
26 scholarship to any qualified Illinois institution of higher

1 learning. However, preference may be given to qualified
2 applicants enrolled at or above the junior level.

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

24 (d) The total amount of minority teacher scholarship
25 assistance awarded by the Commission under this Section to an
26 individual in any given fiscal year, when added to other

1 financial assistance awarded to that individual for that year,
2 shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the institution at
3 which the student is enrolled. If the amount of minority
4 teacher scholarship to be awarded to a qualified student as
5 provided in subsection (c) of this Section exceeds the cost of
6 attendance at the institution at which the student is
7 enrolled, the minority teacher scholarship shall be reduced by
8 an amount equal to the amount by which the combined financial
9 assistance available to the student exceeds the cost of
10 attendance.

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

14 (f) In any academic year for which an eligible applicant
15 under this Section accepts financial assistance through the
16 Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, as authorized by
17 Section 551 et seq. of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the
18 applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance
19 awarded under this Section.

20 (g) All applications for minority teacher scholarships to
21 be awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission
22 on forms which the Commission shall provide for eligible
23 applicants. The form of applications and the information
24 required to be set forth therein shall be determined by the
25 Commission, and the Commission shall require eligible
26 applicants to submit with their applications such supporting

1 documents or recommendations as the Commission deems
2 necessary.

3 (h) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,
4 payment of any minority teacher scholarship awarded under this
5 Section shall be determined by the Commission. All scholarship
6 funds distributed in accordance with this subsection shall be
7 paid to the institution and used only for payment of the
8 tuition and fee and room and board expenses incurred by the
9 student in connection with his or her attendance at a
10 qualified Illinois institution of higher learning. Any
11 minority teacher scholarship awarded under this Section shall
12 be applicable to 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment. If a
13 qualified student withdraws from enrollment prior to
14 completion of the first semester or quarter for which the
15 minority teacher scholarship is applicable, the school shall
16 refund to the Commission the full amount of the minority
17 teacher scholarship.

18 (i) The Commission shall administer the minority teacher
19 scholarship aid program established by this Section and shall
20 make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this
21 Section for its effective implementation.

22 (j) When an appropriation to the Commission for a given
23 fiscal year is insufficient to provide scholarships to all
24 qualified students, the Commission shall allocate the
25 appropriation in accordance with this subsection. If funds are
26 insufficient to provide all qualified students with a

1 scholarship as authorized by this Section, the Commission
2 shall allocate the available scholarship funds for that fiscal
3 year to qualified students who submit a complete application
4 form on or before a date specified by the Commission based on
5 the following order of priority:

6 (1) To students who received a scholarship under this
7 Section in the prior academic year and who remain eligible
8 for a minority teacher scholarship under this Section.

9 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (k), to
10 students who demonstrate financial need, as determined by
11 the Commission.

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

24 Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$2,850,000
25 but less than \$4,200,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal
26 year for scholarships awarded under this Section, then at

1 least 10% of the funds appropriated shall be reserved for
2 qualified bilingual minority applicants, with priority being
3 given to qualified bilingual minority applicants who are
4 enrolled in an educator preparation program with a
5 concentration in bilingual, bicultural education. Beginning
6 with fiscal year 2023, if at least \$4,200,000 is appropriated
7 in a given fiscal year for the Minority Teachers of Illinois
8 scholarship program, then at least 30% of the funds
9 appropriated shall be reserved for qualified bilingual
10 minority applicants, with priority being given to qualified
11 bilingual minority applicants who are enrolled in an educator
12 preparation program with a concentration in bilingual,
13 bicultural education. Beginning with fiscal year 2023, if at
14 least \$2,850,000 is appropriated in a given fiscal year for
15 scholarships awarded under this Section but the Commission
16 does not receive enough applications from qualified bilingual
17 minority applicants on or before January 1 of that fiscal year
18 to award at least 10% of the funds appropriated to qualified
19 bilingual minority applicants, then the Commission may, in its
20 discretion, award a portion of the reserved funds to other
21 qualified students in accordance with subsection (j).

22 (1) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any
23 academic year, each recipient of a minority teacher
24 scholarship awarded under this Section shall be required by
25 the Commission to sign an agreement under which the recipient
26 pledges that, within the one-year period following the

1 termination of the program for which the recipient was awarded
2 a minority teacher scholarship, the recipient (i) shall begin
3 teaching for a period of not less than one year for each year
4 of scholarship assistance he or she was awarded under this
5 Section; (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a
6 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool,
7 elementary school, or secondary school at which no less than
8 30% of the enrolled students are minority students in the year
9 during which the recipient begins teaching at the school or
10 may instead, if the recipient received a scholarship as a
11 qualified bilingual minority applicant, fulfill this teaching
12 obligation in a program in transitional bilingual education
13 pursuant to Article 14C of the School Code or in a school in
14 which 20 or more English learner students in the same language
15 classification are enrolled; and (iii) shall, upon request by
16 the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence that he
17 or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching
18 agreement provided for in this subsection.

19 (m) If a recipient of a minority teacher scholarship
20 awarded under this Section fails to fulfill the teaching
21 obligation set forth in subsection (l) of this Section, the
22 Commission shall require the recipient to repay the amount of
23 the scholarships received, prorated according to the fraction
24 of the teaching obligation not completed, at a rate of
25 interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable
26 collection fees. The Commission is authorized to establish

1 rules relating to its collection activities for repayment of
2 scholarships under this Section. All repayments collected
3 under this Section shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller
4 for deposit into the State's General Revenue Fund.

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (s) The Student Teaching Fund is created as a special fund
12 in the State treasury. Any money appropriated to the
13 Commission for scholarship awards under this Section for a
14 particular academic year that remains unused at the end of
15 that academic year shall be deposited into the Student
16 Teaching Fund. All money in the Student Teaching Fund shall be
17 used, subject to appropriation, by the Commission for the
18 purposes of this subsection (s).

19 The Commission shall establish and administer a student
20 teaching stipend program. Under the program, the Commission
21 shall receive and consider applications for a stipend from
22 recipients of scholarships under this Section who are student
23 teaching. Subject to appropriation from the Student Teaching
24 Fund, the Commission shall select stipend recipients from
25 among applicants who are in financial need. All applications
26 for stipends under this subsection (s) shall be made to the

1 Commission in a form as set forth by the Commission. The form
2 of application and the information required to be set forth in
3 the application shall be determined by the Commission, and the
4 Commission shall require applicants to submit with their
5 applications such supporting documents as the Commission deems
6 necessary.

7 The amount and payment of any stipend under this
8 subsection (s) shall be determined by the Commission, and the
9 Commission shall make all necessary and proper rules not
10 inconsistent with this subsection (s) for its effective
11 implementation.

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