

1 AN ACT relating to education.

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

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 21-14.5 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-14.5 new)

7 Sec. 21-14.5. Continuing Professional Development  
8 Scholarship Program.

9 (a) The Continuing Professional Development Scholarship  
10 Program is hereby created. The State Board of Education  
11 shall implement and administer the program, which shall, from  
12 appropriations made for the purposes of this Section, provide  
13 Continuing Professional Development Scholarships to eligible  
14 applicants.

15 (b) An applicant is eligible for a Continuing  
16 Professional Development Scholarship if he or she is a holder  
17 of a Standard Teaching Certificate, is seeking renewal of  
18 that certificate, and is planning to take coursework from a  
19 regionally accredited institution as part of an approved  
20 certificate renewal plan as provided in Section 21-14 of this  
21 Code.

22 (c) Applications for Continuing Professional Development  
23 Scholarships shall be made to the State Board of Education in  
24 a form as set forth by the State Board of Education. As part  
25 of the application, the applicant shall provide to the State  
26 Board of Education proof that the applicant has an approved  
27 certificate renewal plan and that the plan includes  
28 coursework as described in subdivision (A) or (F) of  
29 paragraph (3) of subsection (e) of Section 21-14 of this  
30 Code.

31 (d) The State Board of Education shall, in consultation

1 with the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community  
2 College Board, determine the average tuition charge per  
3 credit hour of all public universities and community colleges  
4 in this State. A person who has been awarded a Continuing  
5 Professional Development Scholarship may receive scholarship  
6 assistance to cover the actual tuition charge for the  
7 coursework that the person is enrolled to take from a  
8 regionally accredited institution as part of his or her  
9 certificate renewal plan, provided that the maximum amount  
10 awarded per scholarship shall not exceed the lesser of (i) 4  
11 times the average tuition charge per credit hour as  
12 determined by the State Board of Education under this  
13 subsection (d) or (ii) \$500. In no instance may a person  
14 receive scholarship assistance in an amount in excess of the  
15 actual tuition charged that person for the coursework.

16 (e) A person who has received a Continuing Professional  
17 Development Scholarship may reapply for another Continuing  
18 Professional Development Scholarship within a 5-year period,  
19 provided that the person does not exceed the number of credit  
20 hours needed to complete his or her certificate renewal plan.

21 (f) The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules,  
22 consistent with the requirements of this Section, that are  
23 necessary to implement and administer the Continuing  
24 Professional Development Scholarship Program.

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on  
26 July 1, 2002.