

92GMSSB1521

State of Illinois
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Springfield, Illinois 62706

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

August 17, 2001

To the Honorable Members of
The Illinois Senate
92nd General Assembly

I have signed Senate Bill 1521, which amends the State Finance Act, the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, and the Illinois Vehicle Code. Senate Bill 1521 creates a program to provide new teacher training scholarships, to be known as Illinois Future Teacher Training Corps Scholarships. The bill provides scholarships for full-time undergraduate and graduate students pursuing studies at qualified institutions of higher learning leading to teacher certification in this State, and covers tuition and other necessary fees for a period of up to four years.

Although the intent of Senate Bill 1521, which provides funding for new teacher training scholarships, is admirable, the means through which these funds are derived is questionable. History has shown that very few special license plates are effective revenue generators. I am concerned that there will be a public perception that this bill will generate large sums of money for this laudable scholarship fund, when in fact that will likely not be the case. Furthermore, it still remains to be seen if enough plates will be sold to allow any deposits into the scholarship fund.

Having expressed my concerns with the funding mechanism for the Illinois Future Teacher Training Corps Scholarships, I have signed Senate Bill 1521.

Sincerely,
George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR