

AN ACT concerning education.

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

Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is amended by changing Section 52 as follows:

(110 ILCS 947/52)

Sec. 52. Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program ~~Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program~~.

(a) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois students, especially minority students, to pursue teaching careers, especially in teacher shortage disciplines (which shall be defined to include early childhood education) or at hard-to-staff schools (as defined by the Commission in consultation with the State Board of Education), to provide those students with the crucial mentoring, guidance, and in-service support that will significantly increase the likelihood that they will complete their full teaching commitments and elect to continue teaching in targeted disciplines and hard-to-staff schools, and to ensure that students in this State will continue to have access to a pool of highly-qualified teachers, the Commission shall combine the best practices and methods and programmatic functions of the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program and the Golden Apple

Foundation for Excellence in Teaching's Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program into one program. The consolidated program shall be known as the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program and shall be managed by the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

(1) This consolidated program shall be fully operational before July 1, 2012. The existing programs, the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program and the Golden Apple Scholars Program, shall continue to exist and be governed as they have under this Section before the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly and any associated administrative rules, but shall also begin a transition period commencing on the first day of the 2010 fiscal year and ending on the last day of the 2013 fiscal year.

(2) During the transition period, the Commission shall, in consultation with the Golden Apple Foundation, establish rules governing the transition period and related fund transfers and to facilitate coordination and implementation of the consolidated program. Eligible students in this State may continue to apply for Illinois Future Teacher Corps scholarships under the current rules governing such applications during the transition period. Fiscal Year 2012 shall be the last year that such scholarships are available.

(3) The Commission shall, by March 30, 2010, develop an

estimate of General Revenue Funds that it expects will remain unexpended at the end of FY 2010 from the FY 2010 appropriation for the Illinois Future Teacher Corps. No later than April 15, 2010, the Commission shall cause to be transferred funds comprising 85% of this estimated amount to the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching. The Commission shall subsequently transfer funding from the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program to the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching on the following schedule and in the following amounts:

(A) FY 2011: an amount equal to 58% of the total combined appropriation for the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program;

(B) FY 2012: an amount equal to 80% of the combined total appropriation for the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program;

(C) FY 2013: the entire appropriation shall be designated for the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

(4) Following the consolidation of the 2 programs, at least 30% of Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program scholarships available each year shall be awarded to students residing in counties having a population of less than 500,000.

(5) Following the consolidation of the 2 programs, the Auditor General shall prepare an annual audit of the operations and finances of the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program. This audit shall be provided to the Governor and the General Assembly.

(a-5) The, ~~the~~ Commission shall, each year until Fiscal Year 2011, receive and consider applications for scholarship assistance under this Section. An applicant is eligible for an Illinois Future Teacher Corps ~~a~~ scholarship under this Section when the Commission finds that the applicant is:

- (1) a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;
- (2) a resident of Illinois;
- (3) a high school graduate or a person who has received a General Educational Development Certificate;
- (4) enrolled or accepted for enrollment at or above the junior level, on at least a half-time basis, at an Illinois institution of higher learning; and
- (5) pursuing a postsecondary course of study leading to initial certification or pursuing additional course work needed to gain State Board of Education approval to teach, including alternative teacher certification.

(b) Recipients shall be selected from among applicants qualified pursuant to subsection (a) based on a combination of the following criteria as set forth by the Commission until Fiscal Year 2011: (1) academic excellence; (2) status as a minority student as defined in Section 50; and (3) financial

need. Preference may be given to previous recipients of assistance under this Section, provided they continue to maintain eligibility and maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution of higher learning at which they enroll.

In each year until the consolidation of the 2 programs under subsection (a) of this Section has been completed, to support mentoring, guidance, and in-service support for teaching candidates in order to increase the likelihood that they will complete their full teaching commitments and elect to continue teaching in targeted disciplines and hard-to-staff schools, a minimum of 200 awards shall be allocated to participants in the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program.

(c) Each scholarship awarded under this Section shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees and room and board costs of the Illinois institution of higher learning at which the recipient is enrolled, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000; except that in the case of a recipient who does not reside on-campus at the institution of higher learning at which he or she is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship shall be sufficient to pay tuition and fee expenses and a commuter allowance, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000. For recipients who agree to teach in a teacher shortage discipline or at a hard-to-staff school under subsection (i) of this Section, the Commission may, by rule and subject to appropriation, increase the annual maximum amount to \$10,000. If a recipient agrees to

teach in both a teacher shortage discipline and at a hard-to-staff school under subsection (i) of this Section, the Commission may increase the amount of the scholarship awarded by up to an additional \$5,000.

(d) The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded by the Commission under this Section to an individual in any given fiscal year, when added to other financial assistance awarded to that individual for that year, shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the institution of higher learning at which the student is enrolled.

(e) A recipient may receive up to 4 semesters or 6 quarters of scholarship assistance under this Section.

(f) All applications for scholarship assistance to be awarded under this Section shall be made to the Commission in a form as set forth by the Commission. The form of application and the information required to be set forth therein shall be determined by the Commission, and the Commission shall require eligible applicants to submit with their applications such supporting documents as the Commission deems necessary. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, following the completion of the transition of funding of the Illinois Future Teacher Corps to the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, all applications for scholarship assistance under this Section shall be in a form determined by the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

(g) Subject to a separate appropriation made for such

purposes, payment of any scholarship awarded under this Section shall be determined by the Commission. There shall be a separate appropriation made for scholarships awarded to recipients who agree to teach in a teacher shortage discipline or at a hard-to-staff school under subsection (i) of this Section. The Commission may use for scholarship assistance under this Section (i) all funds appropriated for scholarships under this Section that were formerly known as ITEACH Teacher Shortage Scholarships and (ii) all funds appropriated for scholarships under Section 65.65 of this Act (repealed by this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly), formerly known as Illinois Future Teacher Corps Scholarships.

All scholarship funds distributed in accordance with this Section shall be paid to the institution on behalf of the recipients. Scholarship funds are applicable toward 2 semesters or 3 quarters of enrollment within an academic year.

(h) The Commission shall administer the scholarship program established by this Section and shall make all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for its effective implementation.

(i) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any academic year, each recipient of a scholarship awarded under this Section shall be required by the Commission to sign an agreement under which the recipient pledges that, within the one-year period following the termination of the academic program for which the recipient was awarded a scholarship, the

recipient: (i) shall begin teaching for a period of not less than 5 years, (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or an Illinois public elementary or secondary school, and (iii) shall, upon request of the Commission, provide the Commission with evidence that he or she is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching agreement provided for in this subsection.

(j) If a recipient of a scholarship awarded under this Section fails to fulfill the teaching obligation set forth in subsection (i) of this Section, the Commission shall require the recipient to repay the amount of the scholarships received, prorated according to the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and if applicable, reasonable collection fees. The Commission is authorized to establish rules relating to its collection activities for repayment of scholarships under this Section. Payments received by the Commission under this subsection (j) shall be remitted to the State Comptroller for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, except that that portion of a recipient's repayment that equals the amount in expenses that the Commission has reasonably incurred in attempting collection from that recipient shall be remitted to the State Comptroller for deposit into the Commission's Accounts Receivable Fund.

(k) A recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Commission under this Section shall not be in violation of the agreement

entered into pursuant to subsection (i) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a full-time basis as a graduate student in a course of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher learning; (ii) is serving as a member of the armed services of the United States; (iii) is temporarily totally disabled, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) is seeking and unable to find full-time employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection (i) and is able to provide evidence of that fact; (v) is taking additional courses, on at least a half-time basis, needed to obtain certification as a teacher in Illinois; or (vi) is fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other programs administered by the Commission and cannot concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a period of time equal to the length of the teaching obligation. Any such extension of the period during which the teaching requirement must be fulfilled shall be subject to limitations of duration as established by the Commission.

(Source: P.A. 94-133, eff. 7-7-05; 95-939, eff. 1-1-09.)

Section 10. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by changing Section 3-648 as follows:

(625 ILCS 5/3-648)

Sec. 3-648. Education license plates.

(a) The Secretary, upon receipt of an application made in

the form prescribed by the Secretary, may issue special registration plates designated as Education license plates. The special plates issued under this Section shall be affixed only to passenger vehicles of the first division and motor vehicles of the second division weighing not more than 8,000 pounds. Plates issued under this Section shall expire according to the multi-year procedure established by Section 3-414.1 of this Code.

(b) The design and color of the plates shall be determined by a contest that every elementary school pupil in the State of Illinois is eligible to enter. The designs submitted for the contest shall be judged on September 30, 2002, and the winning design shall be selected by a committee composed of the Secretary, the Director of State Police, 2 members of the Senate, one member chosen by the President of the Senate and one member chosen by the Senate Minority Leader, and 2 members of the House of Representatives, one member chosen by the Speaker of the House and one member chosen by the House Minority Leader. The Secretary may allow the plates to be issued as vanity or personalized plates under Section 3-405.1 of the Code. The Secretary shall prescribe stickers or decals as provided under Section 3-412 of this Code.

(c) An applicant for the special plate shall be charged a \$40 fee for original issuance, in addition to the appropriate registration fee. Of this \$40 additional original issuance fee, \$15 shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Special

License Plate Fund, to be used by the Secretary to help defray the administrative processing costs, and \$25 shall be deposited into the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Scholarship Fund. For each registration renewal period, a \$40 fee, in addition to the appropriate registration fee, shall be charged. Of this \$40 additional renewal fee, \$2 shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund and \$38 shall be deposited into the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Scholarship Fund. Each fiscal year, once deposits from the additional original issuance and renewal fees into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund have reached \$500,000, all the amounts received for the additional fees for the balance of the fiscal year shall be deposited into the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Scholarship Fund.

(d) The Illinois Future Teacher Corps Scholarship Fund is created as a special fund in the State treasury. Ninety-five percent of the moneys in the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Scholarship Fund shall be appropriated to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for scholarships under Section 52 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, and 5% of the moneys in the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Scholarship Fund shall be appropriated to the State Board of Education for grants to the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, a recognized charitable organization that meets the requirements of Title 26, Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Code. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this subsection (d),

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beginning in the 2010 fiscal year, funds for the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program and the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching shall be apportioned according to Section 52 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act.

(Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)

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