



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB5358

by Rep. Randy E. Frese

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 805/2-16.10 new
110 ILCS 805/2-27 new
30 ILCS 105/5.970 new

Amends the Public Community College Act. Creates the Illinois Trucking Grant Pilot Program. Provides that, beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, the State Board of Education shall establish and administer the Illinois Trucking Grant Pilot Program to provide financial assistance to students who are accepted to enroll in a truck driver training program at a public State community college that prepares a student to obtain a Class A commercial driver's license in the State. Sets forth provisions concerning an intergovernmental agreement, eligibility and renewal, the stipend amount, the employment obligations, repayment of a stipend, State Board of Education and institution requirements, reporting, and rulemaking. Amends the State Finance Act to make conforming changes.

LRB102 24911 RJT 34162 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 Public Community College Act is amended by
5 adding Sections 2-27 and 2-16.10 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 805/2-16.10 new)

7 Sec. 2-16.10. Illinois Trucking Grant Pilot Program Fund.

8 The Illinois Trucking Grant Pilot Program Fund is created as a
9 special fund in the State treasury. All money in this Fund may
10 be used, subject to appropriation, by the State Board for
11 operational expenses associated with the administration of the
12 Illinois Trucking Grant Pilot Program and for the payment of
13 costs associated with providing grants to eligible community
14 colleges in accordance with the Illinois Trucking Grant Pilot
15 Program.

16 The Fund may also receive grants, awards, endowments, or
17 like proceeds, and where appropriate, other funds made
18 available through contracts with governmental, public, and
19 private agencies or persons.

20 (110 ILCS 805/2-27 new)

21 Sec. 2-27. Illinois Trucking Grant Pilot Program.

22 (a) Subject to appropriation, beginning with awards for

1 the 2023-2024 academic year, the State Board shall establish
2 the Illinois Trucking Grant Pilot Program and receive and
3 consider applications for grant assistance under this Section.
4 The purpose of the Illinois Trucking Grant Pilot Program is to
5 provide financial assistance to individuals that are accepted
6 to enroll in a truck driver training program at a public State
7 community college that prepares a student to obtain a Class A
8 commercial driver's license in the State.

9 (b) An applicant is eligible for a grant under this
10 Section if the State Board finds that the applicant:

11 (1) is a resident of this State;

12 (2) has been accepted to enroll in a truck driver
13 training program at a public State community college that
14 prepares a student to obtain a Class A commercial driver's
15 license in the State;

16 (3) is a high school graduate or has earned a high
17 school equivalency degree; and

18 (4) meets all other admissions criteria for the truck
19 driver training program or course at the community college
20 in which they are enrolled.

21 (c) Applicants who are determined to be eligible for
22 assistance under this Section shall receive, subject to
23 appropriation, a grant sufficient to pay for the tuition and
24 fees for a truck driver training program at a public State
25 community college. All grant payments shall be paid directly
26 to the community college at which the applicant is enrolled.

1 However, any returning and current students must not have an
2 outstanding balance with the community college and must have
3 satisfactory academic performance as determined by the
4 community college.

5 (d) A grant awarded under this Section may not be renewed
6 and shall not exceed \$5,000 per award per recipient. The
7 recipient is not required to repay the grant award if he or she
8 meets the employment requirements set forth in subsection (e).

9 (e) Any person who has accepted a grant under this Section
10 must, within one year after completing a truck driver training
11 program at a public Illinois community college, begin working
12 as a licensed truck driver employed in this State.

13 (f) If a recipient of a scholarship under this Section
14 fails to fulfill the work obligation set forth in subsection
15 (e), the State Board shall require the recipient to repay the
16 amount of the assistance received, prorated according to the
17 fraction of the obligation not completed, at a rate of
18 interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable
19 collection fees. The State Board is authorized to establish
20 rules relating to its collection activities for repayment of
21 scholarships under this Section. All repayments collected
22 under this Section shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller
23 for deposit into this State's General Revenue Fund.

24 A recipient of a grant under this Section is not
25 considered to be in violation of the failure to fulfill the
26 work obligation under subsection (e) if the recipient (i) is

1 serving as a member of the armed services of the United States;
2 (ii) is a person with a temporary total disability for a period
3 of time, not to exceed 3 years, that prevents the person from
4 employment, as established by the sworn affidavit of a
5 qualified physician; or (iii) becomes a person with a
6 permanent total disability that prevents the person from
7 employment, as established by the sworn affidavit of a
8 qualified physician.

9 (g) The State Board shall make all necessary and proper
10 rules not inconsistent with this Section for its effective
11 implementation.

12 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
13 Section 5.970 as follows:

14 (30 ILCS 105/5.970 new)

15 Sec. 5.970. The Illinois Trucking Grant Pilot Program
16 Fund.