



Retaining Illinois Students and Equity (RISE) Act (HB 2691 - Hernandez/Aquino)

Retaining Illinois students and creating equitable access to support is a critical in light of the exodus of Illinois high school students to other states in recent years. To do so, Illinois must address the needs of many college-age Illinois residents who are not eligible for federal aid. The RISE Act would ensure that Illinois residents who are not eligible for federal aid will be considered eligible for state aid and institutional aid at all institutions of higher education. Illinois students deserve a chance for equitable access to financial aid and institutional aid. The RISE Act would ensure that Illinois students have a fair chance to attend institutions of higher learning by addressing the needs of the following populations of students:

- a) Students who have lost state aid because they have surpassed the 75 credit hour limit on state MAP grants before they are juniors. Discontinuation of funding disproportionately affects African American students from under-resourced high schools with high financial need.
- b) Students who do not qualify for federal aid because they are undocumented
- c) Transgender students who are disqualified for federal financial aid for not registering for selective service due to the narrow and restrictive definitions of gender at the federal level

The RISE Act would

- Provide a clear directive to all Illinois colleges and universities that students are not eligible for federal aid or have surpassed the 75 credit limit on MAP grants and are in good academic standing and meet income requirements are still eligible for state financial aid and have the right to apply for institutional aid and MAP grants
- Ensure equity across college students who are residents of Illinois, encouraging students who are ineligible for federal aid or have to take additional courses, especially those that come from under-resourced high schools, to stay in Illinois and attend Illinois institutions of higher learning
- Create more equitable access to higher education for Illinois students

The RISE Act does not request funding for more state or institutional aid for students or change financial or academic standing eligibility requirements. This bill will nevertheless ensure that more state of Illinois residents are eligible, creating more equity of opportunity.

For additional questions or information, please contact:

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