

AGENDA ITEM 10.

PROPOSED RULES

Submitted for: Action

Summary: This item reports on the agency's proposed rules for the new programs passed during the last legislative session and signed into law this summer effective for the 2006-07 school year. The programs are the Monetary Award Program Plus (MAP Plus), Forensic Science Grant Program and the Nurse Educator Scholarship Program. Text of the proposed rules was published in the Illinois Register on August 11, 2006, triggering a 45-day public comment period.

The proposed rules are being presented to the Commission for consideration now that the public comment period has ended. No substantive changes have been made since the initial publication; only technical modifications have been included that are a normal part of the rulemaking process.

Following acceptance of the proposed rules by the Commission, the Executive Director may direct staff to submit them to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), the legislative support services agency responsible for reviewing all rulemaking action of state agencies. This action initiates the second 45-day review period.

An overview of the rulemaking process and details of the current rulemaking cycle are explained on pages 10-1 and 10-2. Highlights of these proposed rules are summarized on page 10-3, and the full text is provided under separate cover.

Action requested: That the Commission approve the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission accepts the proposed rules for submission to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.”

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

PROPOSED RULES

Background

Two senate bills affecting ISAC were signed into law this summer by Governor Rod Blagojevich. Senate Bill 2225 created the Monetary Award Program Plus (MAP Plus) and was signed into law as Public Act 94-1056 effective July 1, 2006. Senate Bill 931 included both the Forensic Science Grant Program and Nurse Educator Assistance Act and was signed into law as Public Act 94-1020 on July 11, 2006.

The Monetary Award Program Plus (MAP Plus) will provide grants of up to \$500 to sophomores, juniors and seniors whose families' adjusted gross incomes are less than \$200,000. MAP Plus will be awarded to students who did not receive a MAP grant and is to be applied toward payment of tuition and mandatory fees. Students must be enrolled at an Illinois institution of higher learning approved to participate in MAP in order to receive the grant.

The Forensic Science Grant Program will provide a maximum grant of \$30,000 to cover the cost of graduate-level forensic science degrees at Illinois state universities. Recipients pursue the graduate courses necessary to fulfill the requirements to become a forensic scientist in a shortage specialty area, and seek employment with the Illinois State Police with a minimum commitment of four years.

One of the programs within the Nurse Educator Assistance Act, the Nurse Educator Scholarship Program, will provide scholarships to nursing education students to cover tuition and fees of up to \$16,067 and \$10,000 in living expenses for training as nurse educators at the twelve participating colleges or universities (private and public) in Illinois. Recipients must begin working as a nurse educator in Illinois within one year after completing their degree and continue to do so for at least five years.

Rulemaking Process Overview

The proposed rules normally are presented to the Commission prior to publication in the Illinois Register, which commences a 45-day public comment period. The Illinois Register is the State's official documentation of rules and regulations promulgated by state entities and maintained by the Illinois Secretary of State. If comments are received from the public, they are then reviewed by staff. Where appropriate, the proposed rules are revised based on comments and suggestions, and staff requests authority from the Commission to submit them to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) for a second 45-day review period. During this review period, legislative review of the rules is conducted first by the JCAR staff and then at a meeting of the legislative members. After incorporating changes suggested by JCAR, the proposed rules will be presented to the Commission for final adoption. The anticipated effective date of the rulemaking for MAP Plus, Nurse Educator Scholarship and Forensic Science Grant programs is December 2006.

Current Rulemaking Cycle

The proposed rules for ISAC's three new programs were published in the Illinois Register on August 11, 2006. This initial publication triggered the 45-day public comment period that ended on September 25, 2006. A letter of public comment in support of the Nurse Educator Scholarship Program has been received

from the Illinois Nurses Association.

In order to maximize the opportunity for public input, in addition to being published in the Illinois Register, the proposed rules were posted to ISAC's College Zone Web site. Staff also solicited feedback through various advisory groups, including the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA) Rules and Operations Advisory Committee.

Proposed Rules

Highlights of the proposed rules for the Monetary Award Program Plus (MAP Plus), Forensic Science Grant Program and the Nurse Educator Scholarship Program are presented in this item. In addition, the full text is provided under separate cover

Action Requested

Staff is requesting the Commission approve the proposed rules for submission to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR).

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROPOSED RULES

Rules are being proposed for the following Parts:

Part 2734 Monetary Award Program Plus (MAP Plus)

This Part is proposed to reflect the statutory changes contained in Public Act 094-1056, which created this new program. These proposed rules govern the administration of the new Monetary Award Program Plus (MAP Plus). The rulemaking sets forth the applicant eligibility requirements, program procedures and institutional procedures.

Part 2742 Forensic Science Grant Program

This Part is being proposed to reflect the statutory changes contained in Public Act 094-1020, which created this new program. These proposed rules govern the administration of the new Forensic Science Grant Program. The rulemaking sets forth the applicant eligibility requirements, program procedures and institutional procedures.

Part 2759 Nurse Educator Scholarship Program

This Part is being proposed to reflect the statutory changes contained in Public Act 094-1020, which created this new program. These proposed rules govern the administration of the new Nurse Educator Scholarship Program. The rulemaking sets forth the applicant eligibility requirements, program procedures and institutional procedures.