



HR0296

LRB098 11903 NHT 45195 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution 69 of the 97th General Assembly called upon the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to form a task force to deliberate options for the adoption of new rules for the Monetary Award Program (MAP), with the goal of improving the outcomes for students who receive these awards; and

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WHEREAS, The task force reported to the General Assembly and Commission with its findings on December 31, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Task force members concluded that MAP recipients, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, could benefit from additional nonfinancial support, such as increased academic and financial counseling before and during college, as this guidance could help to increase retention and to minimize both time-to-degree and student loan debt; and

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WHEREAS, Student success in college is a shared responsibility, requiring effort, commitment, and clear communication on the part of both students and the institutions of higher learning where they are enrolled, which, in the case of advising, requires the institution to provide support and the student to take advantage of this support; and

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1 WHEREAS, Task force members also noted that additional,
2 school-provided support for MAP recipients would demonstrate
3 an institution's partnership with this State in promoting MAP
4 recipients' college access and success; and

5 WHEREAS, Task force members believed that additional
6 expertise and time were needed in order to refine this
7 recommendation and develop specific new requirements for
8 student advising, based on identifiable best practices in
9 student advising and support; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 the Illinois Student Assistance Commission is directed,
13 consistent with the recommendations of the Monetary Award
14 Program (MAP) task force, to form a working group to examine
15 the best practices for academic advising of higher education
16 students who are Monetary Award Program recipients, with an
17 emphasis on support services for low-income and
18 first-generation college students; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the working group shall endeavor to catalog
20 existing student academic advising and support programs in this
21 State and available information on those programs' outcomes,
22 along with surveying existing literature on the effectiveness
23 of similar programs within this State and outside of it; and be

1 it further

2 RESOLVED, That the working group shall make a
3 recommendation to the Commission regarding minimum standards
4 for student support and advising that should be available to
5 encourage retention and degree completion of MAP recipients, as
6 well as minimum requirements for students to take advantage of
7 such support and advising; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the working group may consider not only the
9 potential benefits that an academic advising requirement may
10 bring to MAP recipients, but also such concerns as whether
11 students would have adequate access to such advisors, whether
12 current advising staff at institutions could properly provide
13 appropriate levels of support given time constraints, what
14 means of documentation might be warranted to document a MAP
15 recipient's participation in advising, and any additional
16 costs that may be incurred by schools in implementing a new
17 advising requirement; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the working group shall report its findings
19 and recommendations to the Commission and the General Assembly
20 on or before February 3, 2014; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Student Assistance Commission
22 shall implement requirements related to academic advising and

1 student support services as soon as this is feasible, but not
2 later than the 2015-2016 academic year; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 delivered to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.