



Sen. Iris Y. Martinez

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2356

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 2356 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act is
5 amended by changing Sections 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 48/10)

7 Sec. 10. Definitions. In this Act:

8 "Accredited teacher preparation program" means a
9 regionally accredited, Illinois approved teacher education
10 program authorized to prepare individuals to fulfill all of the
11 requirements to receive an Illinois initial teaching
12 certificate.

13 "Cohort" means a group of teacher education candidates who
14 are enrolled in and share experiences in the same program and
15 are linked by their desire to become Illinois teachers in
16 hard-to-staff schools and by their need for the services and

1 supports offered by the Initiative.

2 "Community organization" means a nonprofit organization
3 that has a demonstrated capacity to train, develop, and
4 organize parents and community leaders into a constituency that
5 will hold the school and the school district accountable for
6 achieving high academic standards; in addition to
7 organizations with a geographic focus, "community
8 organization" includes general parent organizations,
9 organizations of special education or bilingual education
10 parents, and school employee unions.

11 "Developmental classes" means classes in basic skill
12 areas, such as mathematics and language arts that are
13 prerequisite to, but not counted towards, degree requirements
14 of a teacher preparation program.

15 "Eligible school" means a public elementary, middle, or
16 secondary school in this State that serves a substantial
17 percentage of low-income students and that is either hard to
18 staff or has hard-to-staff teaching positions, including, but
19 not limited to, an early childhood program licensed by the
20 Department of Children and Family Services in which no less
21 than 60% of the children it serves are receiving subsidized
22 care under the Department of Human Services' Child Care
23 Assistance Program, Head Start or Early Head Start Program,
24 Preschool for All Program, or a prevention initiative.

25 "Hard-to-staff school" means a public elementary, middle,
26 or secondary school in this State that, based on data compiled

1 by the State Board of Education in conjunction with the Board
2 of Higher Education, serves a substantial percentage of
3 low-income students, as defined by the Board of Higher
4 Education.

5 "Hard-to-staff teaching position" means a teaching
6 category (such as special education, bilingual education,
7 mathematics, or science) in which statewide data compiled by
8 the State Board of Education in conjunction with the Board of
9 Higher Education indicates a multi-year pattern of substantial
10 teacher shortage or that has been identified as a critical need
11 by the local school board.

12 "Initiative" means the Grow Your Own Teacher Education
13 Initiative created under this Act.

14 "Para educator" means an individual with a history of
15 demonstrated accomplishments in school staff positions (such
16 as teacher assistants, school-community liaisons, school
17 clerks, and security aides) in schools that meet the definition
18 of a hard-to-staff school under this Section.

19 "Parent and community leader" means an individual who has
20 or had a child enrolled in a school or schools that meet the
21 definition of a hard-to-staff school under this Section and who
22 has a history of active involvement in the school or who has a
23 history of working to improve schools serving a substantial
24 percentage of low-income students, including membership in a
25 community organization.

26 "Program" means a Grow Your Own Teacher preparation program

1 established by a consortium under this Act.

2 "Schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income
3 students" means schools that maintain any of grades
4 pre-kindergarten through 8, in which at least 35% of the
5 students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches
6 and schools that maintain any of grades 9 through 12, in which
7 at least 25% of the students are eligible to receive free or
8 reduced price lunches.

9 (Source: P.A. 98-1036, eff. 1-1-15.)

10 (110 ILCS 48/15)

11 Sec. 15. Creation of Initiative. The Grow Your Own Teacher
12 Education Initiative is created. Grow Your Own Illinois ~~The~~
13 ~~Board of Higher Education~~ shall administer the Initiative as a
14 grant competition to fund consortia that will carry out Grow
15 Your Own Teacher preparation programs.

16 (Source: P.A. 98-1036, eff. 1-1-15.)

17 (110 ILCS 48/20)

18 Sec. 20. Selection of grantees. The Board of Higher
19 Education shall, subject to appropriation, allocate funds to
20 Grow Your Own Illinois for the purpose of administering the
21 program and awarding ~~award~~ grants as needed to qualified
22 consortia that reflect the distribution and diversity of
23 hard-to-staff schools and hard-to-staff positions across this
24 State. In awarding grants, Grow Your Own Illinois ~~the Board of~~

1 ~~Higher Education~~ shall select programs that successfully
2 address Initiative criteria and that reflect a diversity of
3 strategies in terms of serving urban areas, serving rural
4 areas, the nature of the participating institutions of higher
5 education, and the nature of hard-to-staff schools and
6 hard-to-staff teaching positions on which a program is focused.

7 Grow Your Own Illinois ~~The Board of Higher Education~~ shall
8 select, manage, and oversee consortia that meet the following
9 requirements:

10 (1) A consortium shall be composed of at least one
11 4-year institution of higher education with an Illinois
12 approved teacher preparation program, at least one school
13 district or group of schools, and one or more community
14 organizations. The consortium membership may also include
15 a 2-year institution of higher education, a school employee
16 union, or a regional office of education.

17 (2) The 4-year institution of higher education
18 participating in the consortium shall have past,
19 demonstrated success in preparing teachers for elementary
20 or secondary schools serving a substantial percentage of
21 low-income students.

22 (3) The consortium shall focus on a clearly defined set
23 of eligible schools that will participate in the program.
24 The consortium shall articulate the steps that it will
25 carry out in preparing teachers for its participating
26 schools and in preparing teachers for one or more

1 hard-to-staff teaching positions in those schools.

2 (4) The consortium shall recruit potential candidates
3 for the program and shall take into consideration when
4 selecting a candidate whether the candidate:

5 (A) holds a high school diploma or its equivalent;

6 (B) meets either the definition of "parent and
7 community leader" or the definition of "para educator"
8 contained in Section 10 of this Act;

9 (C) has experienced an interruption in his or her
10 college education;

11 (D) exhibits a willingness to be a teacher in a
12 hard-to-staff school with the goal of maintaining
13 academic excellence;

14 (E) shows an interest in postsecondary education
15 and may hold an associate's degree, a bachelor's
16 degree, or another postsecondary degree, but a
17 postsecondary education is not required;

18 (F) is a parent, a para educator, a community
19 leader, or any other individual from a community with a
20 hard-to-staff school;

21 (G) commits to completing and passing all State
22 standards, including the licensure test to obtain an
23 educator license;

24 (H) shows a willingness to set high standards of
25 performance for himself or herself and students; and

26 (I) demonstrates commitment to the program by:

1 (i) maintaining a cumulative grade point
2 average of at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (or the
3 equivalent as determined by the Board of Higher
4 Education);

5 (ii) attending monthly cohort meetings; and

6 (iii) applying for financial aid from all
7 other financial aid resources before applying for
8 assistance from the program.

9 (5) The consortium shall employ effective procedures
10 for teaching the skills and knowledge needed to prepare
11 highly competent teachers. Professional preparation shall
12 include on-going direct experience in target schools and
13 evaluation of this experience.

14 (6) The consortium shall offer the program to cohorts
15 of candidates, as defined in Section 10 of this Act, on a
16 schedule that enables candidates to work full time while
17 participating in the program and allows para educators to
18 continue in their current positions. In any fiscal year in
19 which an appropriation for the Initiative is made, the
20 consortium shall guarantee that support will be available
21 to an admitted cohort for the cohort's education for that
22 fiscal year. At the beginning of the Initiative, programs
23 that are already operating and existing cohorts of
24 candidates under this model shall be eligible for funding.

25 (7) The institutions of higher education participating
26 in the consortium shall document and agree to expend the

1 same amount of funds in implementing the program that these
2 institutions spend per student on similar educational
3 programs. Grants received by the consortium shall
4 supplement and not supplant these amounts.

5 (8) Grow Your Own Illinois ~~The Board of Higher~~
6 ~~Education~~ shall establish and oversee additional criteria
7 for review of proposals, including criteria that address
8 the following issues:

9 (A) Previous experience of the institutions of
10 higher education in preparing candidates for
11 hard-to-staff schools and positions and in working
12 with students with non-traditional backgrounds.

13 (B) The quality of the implementation plan,
14 including strategies for overcoming institutional
15 barriers to the progress of non-traditional
16 candidates.

17 (C) If a community college is a participant, the
18 nature and extent of existing articulation agreements
19 and guarantees between the community college and the
20 4-year institution of higher education.

21 (D) The number of candidates to be educated in the
22 planned cohort or cohorts and the capacity of the
23 consortium for adding cohorts in future cycles.

24 (E) Experience of the community organization or
25 organizations in organizing parents and community
26 leaders to achieve school improvement and a strong

1 relational school culture.

2 (F) The qualifications of the person or persons
3 designated by the 4-year institution of higher
4 education to be responsible for cohort support and the
5 development of a shared learning and social
6 environment among candidates.

7 (G) The consortium's plan for collective
8 consortium decision-making, involving all consortium
9 members, including mechanisms for candidate input.

10 (H) The consortium's plan for direct impact of the
11 program on the quality of education in the eligible
12 schools.

13 (I) The relevance of the curriculum to the needs of
14 the eligible schools and positions, and the use in
15 curriculum and instructional planning of principles
16 for effective education for adults.

17 (J) The availability of classes under the program
18 in places and times accessible to the candidates.

19 (K) Provision of a level of performance to be
20 maintained by candidates as a condition of continuing
21 in the program.

22 (L) The plan of the 4-year institution of higher
23 education to ensure that candidates take advantage of
24 existing financial aid resources before using the loan
25 funds described in Section 25 of this Act.

26 (M) The availability of supportive services,

1 including, but not limited to, counseling, tutoring,
2 transportation, technology and technology support, and
3 child care.

4 (N) A plan for continued participation of
5 graduates of the program in a program of support for at
6 least 2 years, including mentoring and group meetings.

7 (O) A plan for testing and qualitative evaluation
8 of candidates' teaching skills that ensures that
9 graduates of the program are as prepared for teaching
10 as other individuals completing the institution of
11 higher education's preparation program for the
12 certificate sought.

13 (P) A plan for internal evaluation that provides
14 reports at least yearly on the progress of candidates
15 towards graduation and the impact of the program on the
16 target schools and their communities.

17 (Q) Contributions from schools, school districts,
18 and other consortia members to the program, including
19 stipends for candidates during their student teaching.

20 (R) Consortium commitment for sustaining the
21 program over time, as evidenced by plans for reduced
22 requirements for external funding, in subsequent
23 cycles.

24 (S) The inclusion in the planned program of
25 strategies derived from community organizing that will
26 help candidates develop tools for working with parents

1 and other community members.

2 (Source: P.A. 98-1036, eff. 1-1-15.)

3 (110 ILCS 48/25)

4 Sec. 25. Expenditures under the Initiative.

5 (a) Every program under the Initiative shall implement a
6 program of forgivable loans to cover any portion of tuition,
7 books, and fees of candidates under the program in excess of
8 the candidates' grants-in-aid. All students admitted to a
9 cohort shall be eligible for a forgivable student loan. Loans
10 shall be fully forgiven if a graduate completes 5 years of
11 service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff teaching
12 positions, with partial forgiveness for shorter periods of
13 service. Grow Your Own Illinois ~~The Board of Higher Education~~
14 shall establish standards for the approval of requests for
15 waivers or deferrals from individuals to waive this obligation
16 and. ~~The Board of Higher Education~~ shall also define standards
17 for the fiscal management of these loan funds.

18 (b) Grow Your Own Illinois ~~The Board of Higher Education~~
19 shall award grants under the Initiative in such a way as to
20 provide the required support for a cohort of candidates for any
21 fiscal year in which an appropriation for the Initiative is
22 made. Program budgets must show expenditures and needed funds
23 for the entire period that candidates are expected to be
24 enrolled.

25 (c) No funds under the Initiative may be used to supplant

1 the average per-capita expenditures by the institution of
2 higher education for candidates.

3 (d) Where necessary, program budgets shall include the
4 costs of child care and other indirect expenses, such as
5 transportation, tutoring, technology, and technology support,
6 necessary to permit candidates to maintain their class
7 schedules. Grant funds may be used by any member of a
8 consortium to offset such costs, and the services may be
9 provided by the community organization or organizations, by any
10 other member of the consortium, or by independent contractors.

11 (e) The institution of higher education may expend grant
12 funds to cover the additional costs of offering classes in
13 community settings and for tutoring services.

14 (f) The community organization or organizations may
15 receive a portion of the grant money for the expenses of
16 recruitment, community orientation, and counseling of
17 potential candidates, for providing space in the community, and
18 for working with school personnel to facilitate individual work
19 experiences and support of candidates.

20 (g) The school district or school employee union or both
21 may receive a portion of the grant money for expenses of
22 supporting the work experiences of candidates and providing
23 mentors for graduates. Notwithstanding the provisions of
24 Section 10-20.15 of the School Code, school districts may also
25 use these or other applicable public funds to pay participants
26 in programs under the Initiative for student teaching required

1 by an accredited teacher preparation program.

2 (h) One or more members of the consortium may expend funds
3 to cover the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator.

4 (i) Grant funds may also be expended to pay directly for
5 required developmental classes for candidates beginning a
6 program.

7 (Source: P.A. 98-1036, eff. 1-1-15.)

8 (110 ILCS 48/30)

9 Sec. 30. Implementation of Initiative. Grow Your Own
10 Illinois ~~The Board of Higher Education~~ may, if it chooses,
11 award and administer a small number of planning grants during
12 any fiscal year to potential consortia.

13 (Source: P.A. 98-1036, eff. 1-1-15.)

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
15 2018.".