



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB3865

by Rep. Thomas Morrison

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act
30 ILCS 105/5.878 new

Creates the Illinois District Consolidation Commission Act. Creates the Illinois District Consolidation Commission for the purpose of recommending what school districts in the State to consolidate, with a goal of reducing the total number of school districts in the State by at least 60%. Requires all State agencies to assist the Commission as reasonably necessary, and provides that the State Board of Education shall provide administrative and other support. Sets forth requirements concerning membership and powers. Requires the Commission to issue a report concerning recommended consolidations by November 6, 2017. Requires the Commission to submit proposed legislation to the General Assembly enacting the proposed consolidations by November 6, 2017. Requires the General Assembly to vote on the legislation. Provides that the Commission shall spend no more than \$1,000,000 on expenses. Amends the State Finance Act to create the Illinois District Consolidation Commission Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Repeals the Act January 1, 2019. Contains a severability clause. Effective immediately.

LRB100 05237 MLM 15247 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Illinois District Consolidation Commission Act.

6 Section 5. Definition. As used in this Act, "Commission"
7 means the Illinois District Consolidation Commission created
8 under this Act.

9 Section 10. Illinois District Consolidation Commission.

10 (a) The Illinois District Consolidation Commission is
11 created for the purpose of recommending what school districts
12 in the State to consolidate, with a goal of reducing the total
13 number of school districts in the State by at least 60%.

14 (b) All State agencies shall assist the Commission as
15 reasonably necessary to fulfill its goal.

16 (c) The State Board of Education shall provide
17 administrative and other support to the Commission as needed.

18 Section 15. Members.

19 (a) The Commission shall consist of 9 members, to be
20 appointed as follows:

21 (1) Two individuals appointed by the Speaker of the

1 House of Representatives.

2 (2) Two individuals appointed by the Minority Leader of
3 the House of Representatives.

4 (3) Two individuals appointed by the President of the
5 Senate.

6 (4) Two individuals appointed by the Minority Leader of
7 the Senate.

8 (5) One individual appointed by the Governor, who shall
9 serve as chairperson.

10 (b) Initial appointments to the Commission must be
11 completed no later than 30 days after the effective date of
12 this Act.

13 (c) Members shall serve until the completion of the
14 Commission's report under this Act.

15 (d) If a vacancy occurs, the vacancy shall be filled in the
16 same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of
17 the unexpired term.

18 Section 20. Powers.

19 (a) The Commission shall have the power to determine its
20 own rules, schedules, and agenda.

21 (b) The Commission shall determine the selection criteria
22 it uses to determine which districts will be considered
23 candidates for consolidation.

24 (c) The Commission shall not have the power to discuss or
25 consider the consolidation of specific schools, State-provided

1 subsidies designed to encourage consolidation, or the
2 equalization of employee contracts among affected districts.

3 Section 25. Report.

4 (a) The Commission shall first create a preliminary list of
5 potential school district consolidations. The Commission shall
6 then evaluate that list by taking testimony from interested
7 parties and paying visits to the affected districts.

8 (b) Based on the Commission's findings, the Commission
9 shall assemble a finalized list of districts to be
10 consolidated, along with a comprehensive impact report to be
11 submitted to the Governor and members of the General Assembly
12 no later than November 6, 2017.

13 (c) Along with the finalized list, the Commission shall
14 prepare a report that shall include, but is not limited to, the
15 following:

16 (1) a comprehensive report on the impact of the
17 proposed consolidations;

18 (2) policy recommendations on limiting the merger of
19 local bargaining units in newly combined districts; and

20 (3) a list of any and all financial incentives offered
21 by the State to school districts to consolidate, and how
22 much money could be saved by repealing the incentives.

23 Section 30. Approval of recommendations.

24 (a) No later than November 6, 2017, the Commission shall

1 submit proposed legislation to the General Assembly enacting
2 the proposed school district consolidations. The Legislative
3 Reference Bureau shall assist the Commission as needed in
4 creating the legislation.

5 (b) The General Assembly shall vote on the Commission's
6 proposed legislation. No amendments to the legislation, except
7 for grammatical or technical purposes, shall be allowed.

8 Section 35. Illinois District Consolidation Commission
9 Fund. There is created the Illinois District Consolidation
10 Commission Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. All
11 reasonable and necessary expenses for the Commission shall be
12 payable out of the Fund. Subject to appropriation, the
13 Commission shall spend no more than \$1,000,000 in fulfilling
14 its goals under this Act.

15 Section 40. This Act is repealed on January 1, 2019.

16 Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
17 Section 5.878 as follows:

18 (30 ILCS 105/5.878 new)

19 Sec. 5.878. The Illinois District Consolidation Commission
20 Fund. This Section is repealed January 1, 2019.

21 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are

1 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.