



Rep. André Thapedi

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10000HB4495ham003

LRB100 18415 AXK 39346 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 4495

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 4495, AS AMENDED, by
3 replacing everything after the enacting clause with the
4 following:

5 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
6 Vocational Academy Opportunity Act.

7 Section 5. Definition. In this Act, "Board" means the Board
8 of Trustees created by this Act.

9 Section 10. Establishment, funding, and, location.

10 (a) There are initially created 2 vocational academies, one
11 located in Cook County and the other in St. Clair County, which
12 shall be residential institutions. Each academy shall be
13 located within 5 linear miles of a major interstate in a
14 community where the average income of a household of 3 people
15 is no greater than 100% of the federal poverty level. The land

1 value of the community in which the academy is located may not
2 exceed \$7.50 per square foot.

3 (b) Each academy shall exist as an intergovernmental
4 agreement among the public school districts of this State, with
5 one half of the school districts assigned to one academy and
6 one half of the school districts assigned to the other academy.
7 Each academy may admit those students who reside in a school
8 district assigned to the academy and who have completed the
9 academic equivalent of the 9th grade and shall offer a program
10 of secondary coursework that is appropriate for students in the
11 10th, 11th, and 12th grades and that offers courses that meet
12 the prerequisites to receiving a high school diploma under
13 Section 27-22 of the School Code. Each academy shall be
14 governed by the School Code and shall function as a public
15 school. Admission shall be determined by competitive
16 examination.

17 (c) In order to be eligible for State appropriations, on or
18 before October 6, 2019 and annually thereafter, each academy
19 shall present to the State Board of Education a budget for the
20 following school year. The State Board shall review and approve
21 the budget or send the budget back to the academy for any
22 revisions.

23 (d) When a student is accepted for enrollment in an
24 academy, the academy shall notify the State Board of Education.
25 The State Board shall award a grant in the amount of the
26 tuition necessary for that student to the public school

1 district in which the student lives. If the student was not
2 enrolled in a public school in the prior school year, the
3 student may attend the academy, but shall pay the full tuition
4 amount. In no case shall public moneys be used to offset the
5 tuition of that student.

6 Section 15. Board of Trustees. The academies shall be
7 governed by a single Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees
8 shall be elected by the district superintendents whose school
9 districts are members of the intergovernmental agreement and
10 shall have the same authority as the board of any special
11 education or vocational education cooperative created through
12 an intergovernmental agreement.

13 Section 20. Academy property. Each academy shall be
14 empowered to lease or purchase real or personal property on
15 commercially reasonable terms for the use by the academy. Any
16 leases or purchases of real or personal property and any
17 disposition of the property by an academy shall be in
18 compliance with the provisions of the Civil Administrative Code
19 of Illinois and the State Property Control Act. Personal
20 property acquired for use by an academy shall be inventoried
21 and disposed of in accordance with the State Property Control
22 Act.

23 Section 25. Indemnification. Each academy, the Board, and

1 its employees shall be represented and indemnified in certain
2 civil law suits in accordance with the State Employee
3 Indemnification Act. An academy or its officers or employees
4 and the Board may not participate in the creation of any
5 corporation, joint venture, partnership, association, or other
6 organizational entity that exercises, expands, or enhances the
7 powers, duties, or responsibilities of the academy, unless
8 specifically authorized by the General Assembly. This Section
9 does not restrict an academy from creating any organizational
10 entity that is within or a part of the academy.

11 Section 705. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
12 Sections 5.886 and 6z-105 as follows:

13 (30 ILCS 105/5.886 new)

14 Sec. 5.886. The Vocational Academy Fund.

15 (30 ILCS 105/6z-105 new)

16 Sec. 6z-105. Vocational Academy Fund. The Vocational
17 Academy Fund is created as a special fund in the State
18 treasury. All moneys deposited into the Fund, which may include
19 private contributions or endowments, shall be appropriated to
20 the State Board of Education to provide financial assistance to
21 the vocational academies created under the Vocational Academy
22 Opportunity Act. Moneys appropriated from the Fund shall
23 supplement and not supplant the current level of education

1 funding.".