

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 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 2-3.80c as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.80c new)

7 Sec. 2-3.80c. Agriculture Education Shortage Task Force.

8 (a) The General Assembly recognizes that agriculture is the
9 most basic and singularly important industry in the State, that
10 agriculture is of central importance to the welfare and
11 economic stability of the State, and that the maintenance of
12 this vital industry requires a continued source of trained and
13 qualified agriculture educators to train future generations of
14 agriculturalists.

15 In 2016, to respond to the ongoing teacher shortage in
16 agriculture education in Illinois, the General Assembly passed
17 Public Act 99-826, which deemed agriculture education as an
18 area of critical need in Illinois.

19 (b) There is created the Agriculture Education Shortage
20 Task Force consisting of the following members:

21 (1) one member of the Senate appointed by the President
22 of the Senate;

23 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the Minority

1 Leader of the Senate;

2 (3) one member of the House of Representatives
3 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

4 (4) one member of the House of Representatives
5 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
6 Representatives; and

7 (5) the following members, who shall be appointed by
8 the State Superintendent of Education within 30 days after
9 the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 100th
10 General Assembly:

11 (A) one representative of the State Board of
12 Education;

13 (B) one member representing a statewide
14 professional teachers' association appointed with the
15 advice of the Committee established under subsection
16 (d) of Section 2-3.80 of this Code;

17 (C) one member representing a different statewide
18 professional teachers' association appointed with the
19 advice of the Committee established under subsection
20 (d) of Section 2-3.80 of this Code;

21 (D) one member representing a different
22 professional teachers' association in a city having a
23 population of over 500,000 appointed with the advice of
24 the Committee established under subsection (d) of
25 Section 2-3.80 of this Code;

26 (E) one member who is a community college

1 agriculture education teacher appointed with the
2 advice of the Committee established under subsection
3 (d) of Section 2-3.80 of this Code;

4 (F) one member who is a university agriculture
5 education teacher appointed with the advice of the
6 Committee established under subsection (d) of Section
7 2-3.80 of this Code;

8 (G) one member representing a statewide
9 association representing superintendents;

10 (H) one member representing a statewide
11 association representing principals;

12 (I) one member representing a statewide
13 association representing school board members;

14 (J) one representative of a school district in a
15 city having a population exceeding 500,000;

16 (K) one member representing an education advocacy
17 group that works with parents; and

18 (L) one representative of an education public
19 policy organization.

20 (c) The Agriculture Education Shortage Task Force shall
21 first meet at the call of the State Superintendent of Education
22 within 60 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act
23 of the 100th General Assembly, and following meetings shall be
24 at the call of the Chairperson, who shall be elected by a
25 majority of appointed members at the first meeting of the Task
26 Force. The State Board of Education shall provide

1 administrative support for the Task Force.

2 (d) Members of the Task Force shall serve without
3 compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and related
4 expenses from funds appropriated for that purpose.

5 (e) The Task Force shall meet at least 3 times and shall
6 review the following:

7 (1) the number of agriculture education teachers in
8 this State and the type of license held;

9 (2) the number of graduates who have graduated from an
10 approved agriculture education program of a public
11 university in this State in each of the past 4 years;

12 (3) the number of agriculture education position
13 openings at secondary education programs in this State in
14 each of the past 4 years; and

15 (4) licensure standards, including national licensure
16 standards, for the agricultural education endorsement on a
17 professional educator license or an educator license with
18 stipulations.

19 (f) The Task Force shall issue a report to the Governor and
20 the General Assembly, which must be approved by a majority vote
21 of appointed members and must include recommendations
22 regarding:

23 (1) recruitment and retention of agriculture education
24 teachers, including recommendations on funding for
25 existing incentive programs;

26 (2) participation in federal programs that may assist

1 in the recruitment and retention of agriculture teachers;

2 and

3 (3) other subjects determined by the members of the

4 Task Force.

5 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings to the

6 Governor and General Assembly on or before January 1, 2019,

7 and, upon filing its report, the Task Force is dissolved.

8 (h) This Section is repealed on February 1, 2019.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

10 becoming law.