

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 2-3.80d as follows:

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

7 Sec. 2-3.80d. Agricultural Education Pre-Service Teacher
8 Training Program.

9 (a) In this Section:

10 "Non-traditional agricultural education teaching student"
11 means a student enrolled in an institution of higher education
12 in this State in a State-approved teacher preparation program
13 who has completed at least 30 credit hours, has maintained a
14 minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale (or
15 its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education),
16 and has demonstrated, through application to the Agricultural
17 Education Pre-Service Teacher Training Program, an interest in
18 agricultural education.

19 "Pre-service teaching student" means a student who is
20 enrolled in an approved agricultural education teacher
21 preparation program at an institution of higher education or an
22 articulated agricultural education teacher course of study at a
23 public community college, has completed at least 30 credit

1 hours, and has maintained, at a minimum, a 3.0 cumulative grade
2 point average.

3 "Illinois agricultural company" means any company in this
4 State that has an interest in the agricultural industry, as
5 determined by the pre-service teaching student's institution
6 of higher education or public community college.

7 (b) Subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education
8 must develop an Agricultural Education Pre-Service Teacher
9 Training Program beginning at the secondary level that provides
10 grants to all of the following:

11 (1) Students who qualify as pre-service teaching
12 students and who attend institutions of higher education in
13 this State that offer a State-approved agricultural
14 education teacher preparation program.

15 (2) Students who qualify as pre-service teaching
16 students and who attend public community colleges in this
17 State that provide an articulated agricultural education
18 teacher course of study.

19 (3) Non-traditional agricultural education teaching
20 students, as defined in this Section.

21 The Training Program must be a 12-week experience that
22 includes all of the following:

23 (1) Hands-on experience in the 5 career clusters of
24 agricultural education through partnerships with Illinois
25 agricultural companies. The 5 career clusters are
26 agricultural business management, agricultural mechanics

1 and technology, horticulture services operations and
2 management, agricultural sciences, and natural resources
3 conservation management.

4 (2) At least 2 weeks in each of the 5 career clusters
5 under paragraph (1).

6 (3) Both in-classroom lectures and hands-on, applied
7 learning.

8 (c) The funds provided by the State Board under subsection
9 (b) may be used to support all of the following activities:

10 (1) A stipend not to exceed \$7,500 for a
11 non-traditional agricultural education teaching student or
12 a pre-service teaching student for work completed under the
13 Training Program, distributed in monthly installments.

14 (2) Lodging for a pre-service teaching student while
15 participating in the Training Program.

16 (3) Reimbursement for meals, not to exceed \$75 per day,
17 for a pre-service teaching student while participating in
18 the Training Program.

19 (4) Any reasonable costs for participation in the
20 Training Program charged by a participating Illinois
21 agricultural company.

22 (5) Any educational costs related to the Training
23 Program, including, but not limited to, for course credits
24 at the institution of higher education or public community
25 college.

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

1 becoming law.