

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 Internship Program.

9 (a) In this Section:

10 "Pre-service teaching student" means a student who is a  
11 declared agricultural education major accepted into an  
12 approved agricultural teacher education program at a public  
13 university in this State and who has completed at least 30  
14 credit hours and has maintained, at a minimum, a 2.5 cumulative  
15 grade point average on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent.

16 "Illinois agricultural company" means any company in this  
17 State that has an interest in the agricultural industry, as  
18 determined by the pre-service teaching student's public  
19 university.

20 (b) Subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education  
21 must, in consultation with the Board of Higher Education,  
22 develop an Agricultural Education Pre-Service Teacher  
23 Internship Program, beginning at the secondary education

1 level, for pre-service teaching students that consists of both  
2 of the following:

3 (1) At a minimum, an 8-week experience or 300 hours of  
4 experience to prepare the pre-service teaching student for  
5 in-classroom experiences, including, but not limited to,  
6 experiences in the 5 career clusters for Illinois  
7 agricultural education through partnerships with Illinois  
8 agricultural companies. The 5 career clusters include  
9 agricultural business management, agricultural mechanics  
10 and technology, horticulture services operations and  
11 management, agricultural sciences, and natural resources  
12 conservation management.

13 (2) Both in-classroom lectures and hands-on, applied  
14 learning.

15 (c) Subject to appropriation, the State Board must award  
16 grants to a pre-service teaching student enrolled in the  
17 Internship Program under subsection (b), which may be used by  
18 the student to support all of the following activities:

19 (1) A stipend not to exceed \$7,500 for a pre-service  
20 teaching student's completion of the Internship Program,  
21 distributed in monthly installments.

22 (2) Lodging for a pre-service teaching student while  
23 participating in the Internship Program.

24 (3) Reimbursement for meals, not to exceed the per diem  
25 rate established by the Internal Revenue Service, for a  
26 pre-service teaching student while participating in the

1           Internship Program.

2           (4) Any reasonable costs for participation in the  
3           Internship Program charged by any participating Illinois  
4           agricultural company.

5           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6           becoming law.