



Rep. Rita Mayfield

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LRB102 02691 CMG 25116 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 7

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 7 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. This Act may be referred to as the Classrooms  
5 First Act.

6 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
7 11E-140 as follows:

8 (105 ILCS 5/11E-140 new)

9 Sec. 11E-140. Efficient School District Commission.

10 (a) The Efficient School District Commission is created.  
11 The purpose of the Commission is to provide recommendations to  
12 the Governor, the General Assembly, and the electorate  
13 regarding the number of school districts in this State and  
14 where the reorganization and realignment of school districts  
15 would be beneficial. The Commission shall consist of all of

1 the following voting members:

2 (1) One member appointed by the Governor, who shall  
3 serve as the chairperson.

4 (2) One member appointed by the State Board of  
5 Education.

6 (3) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House  
7 of Representatives.

8 (4) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
9 House of Representatives.

10 (5) One member appointed by the President of the  
11 Senate.

12 (6) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
13 Senate.

14 (7) A representative appointed by the head of the  
15 largest statewide professional teachers' organization, as  
16 measured by the number of members reported in its most  
17 recent federal Form LM-2 Labor Organization Annual Report.

18 (8) A representative appointed by the head of the  
19 second largest statewide professional teachers'  
20 organization, as measured by the number of members  
21 reported in its most recent federal Form LM-2 Labor  
22 Organization Annual Report.

23 (9) A representative appointed by the head of an  
24 organization that represents school boards, selected by  
25 the chairperson of the Commission.

26 (10) A representative appointed by the head of a

1 statewide organization that represents school principals,  
2 selected by the chairperson of the Commission.

3 (11) A parent of a child enrolled in or a teacher or an  
4 administrator employed by a school located in the West  
5 Cook region of the State Board of Education's Statewide  
6 System of Support Fiscal Agents (Region 1-B-B), appointed  
7 by the chairperson of the Commission.

8 (12) A parent of a child enrolled in or a teacher or an  
9 administrator employed by a school located in the South  
10 Cook region of the State Board of Education's Statewide  
11 System of Support Fiscal Agents (Region 1-B-C), appointed  
12 by the chairperson of the Commission.

13 (13) A parent of a child enrolled in or a teacher or an  
14 administrator employed by a school located in the North  
15 Cook region of the State Board of Education's Statewide  
16 System of Support Fiscal Agents (Region 1-B-D), appointed  
17 by the chairperson of the Commission.

18 (14) A parent of a child enrolled in or a teacher or an  
19 administrator employed by a school located in the  
20 Northeast region of the State Board of Education's  
21 Statewide System of Support Fiscal Agents (Area 1-C),  
22 appointed by the chairperson of the Commission.

23 (15) A parent of a child enrolled in or a teacher or an  
24 administrator employed by a school located in the  
25 Northwest region of the State Board of Education's  
26 Statewide System of Support Fiscal Agents (Area 2),

1 appointed by the chairperson of the Commission.

2 (16) A parent of a child enrolled in or a teacher or an  
3 administrator employed by a school located in the West  
4 Central region of the State Board of Education's Statewide  
5 System of Support Fiscal Agents (Area 3), appointed by the  
6 chairperson of the Commission.

7 (17) A parent of a child enrolled in or a teacher or an  
8 administrator employed by a school located in the East  
9 Central region of the State Board of Education's Statewide  
10 System of Support Fiscal Agents (Area 4), appointed by the  
11 chairperson of the Commission.

12 (18) A parent of a child enrolled in or a teacher or an  
13 administrator employed by a school located in the  
14 Southwest region of the State Board of Education's  
15 Statewide System of Support Fiscal Agents (Area 5),  
16 appointed by the chairperson of the Commission.

17 (19) A parent of a child enrolled in or a teacher or an  
18 administrator employed by a school located in the  
19 Southeast region of the State Board of Education's  
20 Statewide System of Support Fiscal Agents (Area 6),  
21 appointed by the chairperson of the Commission.

22 (20) A representative appointed by the head of an  
23 association that represents school business officials,  
24 selected by the chairperson of the Commission.

25 (21) A representative appointed by the head of an  
26 association that represents school administrators,

1 selected by the chairperson of the Commission.

2 (22) A representative appointed by the head of an  
3 association that represents administrators of special  
4 education, selected by the chairperson of the Commission.

5 (23) A representative appointed by the head of a  
6 statewide parent organization, selected by the chairperson  
7 of the Commission.

8 (24) A representative appointed by the head of an  
9 organization that represents high school districts,  
10 selected by the chairperson of the Commission.

11 (25) A representative appointed by the head of an  
12 association that represents regional superintendents of  
13 schools, selected by the chairperson of the Commission.

14 Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be  
15 reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses from  
16 funds appropriated for that purpose. Members shall be  
17 reimbursed for their travel expenses from appropriations to  
18 the State Board of Education made available for that purpose  
19 and subject to the rules of the appropriate travel control  
20 board.

21 The Commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson,  
22 with the initial meeting to occur within 90 days after the  
23 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General  
24 Assembly. The Commission shall hold public hearings throughout  
25 the State with at least one public hearing in each of the 9  
26 regions of the State Board of Education's Statewide System of

1 Support Fiscal Agents that do not include the Chicago region  
2 (Region 1-A).

3 The State Board shall provide administrative assistance  
4 and necessary staff support services to the Commission.

5 (b) The Efficient School District Commission's  
6 recommendations must take into consideration the school needs  
7 and conditions in the affected districts and the surrounding  
8 area, the division of funds and assets that will result from  
9 the action described in the petition, the best interests of  
10 the schools in the area, and the best interests and the  
11 educational welfare of pupils residing in the area and must  
12 focus on all of the following areas:

13 (1) Reducing the money spent on the duplication of  
14 efforts.

15 (2) Improving the education of students by having  
16 fewer obstacles between qualified teachers and their  
17 students.

18 (3) Lowering the property tax burden.

19 (4) Providing recommendations on what the net cost  
20 savings of realignment is to this State.

21 (5) With a view toward reducing unnecessary  
22 administrative costs, improving the education of students,  
23 and lowering the property tax burden, drafting specific  
24 recommendations to reduce the statewide total number of  
25 school districts by no less than 25% through the  
26 reorganization of school districts into unit districts

1 under Section 11E-25. Each recommendation under this  
2 paragraph (5) must include all of the following:

3 (A) A request to submit a proposition at the next  
4 general election for the purpose of voting for or  
5 against the establishment of a combined unit district.

6 (B) A description of the territory comprising the  
7 districts proposed to be dissolved and those to be  
8 created, which, for an entire district, may be a  
9 general reference to all of the territory included  
10 within that district.

11 (C) A specification of the maximum tax rates the  
12 proposed district or districts are authorized to levy  
13 for various purposes and, if applicable, the  
14 specifications related to the Property Tax Extension  
15 Limitation Law, in accordance with Section 11E-80.

16 The Commission may not make any recommendations under this  
17 subsection that would provide for the consolidation of  
18 individual schools.

19 (c) On or before May 1, 2024, the Efficient School  
20 District Commission must vote on its recommendations and file  
21 a report with the Governor and the General Assembly. If the  
22 Commission adopts the report recommendations by an affirmative  
23 vote of at least 13 of its members, then the Commission's  
24 specific recommendations for reorganization of school  
25 districts into unit districts under paragraph (5) of  
26 subsection (b) shall be filed with the appropriate regional

1 superintendent of schools in the same form as petitions filed  
2 under Section 11E-35. A copy of the Commission's specific  
3 recommendations shall be provided to the regional  
4 superintendent of schools of each educational service region  
5 situated in the territory described in the specific  
6 recommendation or that part of the territory in which the  
7 greater percentage of equalized assessed valuation is  
8 situated. Petitions submitted by the Commission under this  
9 Section are not subject to the requirements under subsection  
10 (a) of Section 11E-35.

11 (d) Upon receiving the filed petition as provided in  
12 subsection (c) from the regional superintendent of schools,  
13 each school board of the affected school districts shall  
14 publish a copy of the petition on its official Internet  
15 website, if available, with a link to the recommendation shown  
16 prominently on the homepage of the website until the date of  
17 the next upcoming general election.

18 (e) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of Section 11E-50,  
19 within 14 days after the conclusion of the hearing under  
20 Section 11E-45 regarding a petition filed by the Efficient  
21 School District Commission, the regional superintendent shall,  
22 upon determining that the petition is in compliance with all  
23 applicable requirements set forth in the Election Code,  
24 through a written order, approve the petition, or, if the  
25 regional superintendent determines that the amended petition  
26 is not in compliance with the Election Code, the regional



1 superintendent shall deny the petition.

2 (f) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of Section 11E-50,  
3 within 21 days after the receipt of the regional  
4 superintendent's decision regarding a petition filed by the  
5 Efficient School District Commission under this Section, the  
6 State Superintendent of Education shall, upon determining that  
7 the petition is in compliance with all applicable requirements  
8 set forth in the Election Code, through a written order,  
9 approve the petition, or, if the State Superintendent  
10 determines that the amended petition is not in compliance with  
11 the Election Code, the State Superintendent shall deny the  
12 petition.

13 (g) The Efficient School District Commission shall serve  
14 as and take on the responsibilities of the designated  
15 Committee of Ten for the purposes of petitions filed under  
16 this Section, except that notwithstanding paragraph (10) of  
17 subsection (a) of Section 11E-35, any amendments to petitions  
18 filed by the Commission and any binding stipulations made to  
19 any question with respect to a petition under this Section  
20 shall be made by at least 13 members of the Commission.

21 (h) Incentive payments required under Section 11E-135  
22 shall be made for the purposes of this Section, subject to  
23 appropriation by the General Assembly. The failure of the  
24 General Assembly to appropriate incentive payment funds under  
25 Section 11E-135 shall not be a bar to reorganization under  
26 this Section.

1        (i) This Section is repealed on January 31, 2025.

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