

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 changing Section
5 2-3.80 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.80) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.80)

7 Sec. 2-3.80. (a) The General Assembly recognizes that
8 agriculture is the most basic and singularly important
9 industry in the State, that agriculture is of central
10 importance to the welfare and economic stability of the State,
11 and that the maintenance of this vital industry requires a
12 continued source of trained and qualified individuals for
13 employment in agriculture and agribusiness. The General
14 Assembly hereby declares that it is in the best interests of
15 the people of the State of Illinois that a comprehensive
16 education program in agriculture be created and maintained by
17 the State's public school system in order to ensure an
18 adequate supply of trained and skilled individuals and to
19 ensure appropriate representation of racial and ethnic groups
20 in all phases of the industry. It is the intent of the General
21 Assembly that a State program for agricultural education shall
22 be a part of the curriculum of the public school system K
23 through adult, and made readily available to all school

1 districts which may, at their option, include programs in
2 education in agriculture as a part of the curriculum of that
3 district.

4 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt such rules
5 and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions
6 of this Section. The rules and regulations shall not create
7 any new State mandates on school districts as a condition of
8 receiving federal, State, and local funds by those entities.
9 It is in the intent of the General Assembly that, although this
10 Section does not create any new mandates, school districts are
11 strongly advised to follow the guidelines set forth in this
12 Section.

13 (c) The State Superintendent of Education shall assume
14 responsibility for the administration of the State program
15 adopted under this Section throughout the public school system
16 as well as the articulation of the State program to the
17 requirements and mandates of federally assisted education.
18 There is currently within the State Board of Education an
19 agricultural education unit to assist school districts in the
20 establishment and maintenance of educational programs pursuant
21 to the provisions of this Section. The staffing of the unit
22 shall at all times be comprised of an appropriate number of
23 full-time employees who shall serve as program consultants in
24 agricultural education and shall be available to provide
25 assistance to school districts. At least one consultant shall
26 be responsible for the coordination of the State program, as

1 Head Consultant. At least one consultant shall be responsible
2 for the coordination of the activities of student and
3 agricultural organizations and associations.

4 (d) A committee of 13 agriculturalists representative of
5 the various and diverse areas of the agricultural industry in
6 Illinois shall be established to at least develop a curriculum
7 and overview the implementation of the Build Illinois through
8 Quality Agricultural Education plans of the Illinois
9 Leadership Council for Agricultural Education and to advise
10 the State Board of Education on vocational agricultural
11 education, including the administration of the agricultural
12 education line item appropriation and agency rulemaking that
13 affects agricultural education educators. The committee
14 ~~Committee~~ shall be composed of the following:

15 (1) 3 ~~(6)~~ agriculturalists representing the Illinois
16 Leadership Council for Agricultural Education;

17 (2) 3 agriculturalists;

18 (3) 2 secondary agriculture teachers ~~(2) Secondary~~
19 ~~Agriculture Teachers;~~

20 (4) one representative of ~~(1)~~ "Ag In The Classroom"
21 ~~Teacher;~~

22 (5) one community college agriculture teacher ~~(1)~~
23 ~~Community College Agriculture Teacher;~~

24 (6) one adult agriculture educator ~~(1)~~ ~~Adult~~
25 ~~Agriculture Education Teacher;~~

26 (7) one university agriculture teacher educator ~~(1)~~

1 ~~University Agriculture Teacher Educator; and~~

2 (8) one FFA representative ~~(1) FFA Representative.~~

3 All members of the committee ~~Committee~~ shall be appointed
4 by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the
5 Senate. The terms of all members so appointed shall be for 3
6 years, except that of the members initially appointed, 5 shall
7 be appointed to serve for terms of one ~~±~~ year, 4 shall be
8 appointed to serve for terms of 2 years, and 4 shall be
9 appointed to serve for terms of 3 years. All members of the
10 committee ~~Committee~~ shall serve until their successors are
11 appointed and qualified. Subject to a requirement that
12 committee members in office before the effective date of this
13 amendatory Act of 102nd General Assembly may serve the full
14 term to which they were appointed, the appointment of
15 committee members to terms that commence on or after the
16 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General
17 Assembly shall be made in a manner that gives effect at the
18 earliest possible time to the changes that are required by
19 this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly in the
20 representative composition of the committee's membership.

21 Vacancies in terms shall be filled by appointment of the
22 Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for the
23 extent of the unexpired term.

24 The State Board of Education shall implement a Build
25 Illinois through Quality Agricultural Education plan following
26 receipt of these recommendations, which shall be made

1 available on or before March 31, 1987. Recommendations shall
2 include, but not be limited to, the development of a
3 curriculum and a strategy for the purpose of establishing a
4 source of trained and qualified individuals in agriculture, a
5 strategy for articulating the State program in agricultural
6 education throughout the public school system, and a consumer
7 education outreach strategy regarding the importance of
8 agriculture in Illinois.

9 The committee of agriculturalists shall serve without
10 compensation.

11 (e) A school district that offers a secondary agricultural
12 education program that is approved for State and federal
13 funding must ensure that, at a minimum, all of the following
14 are available to its secondary agricultural education
15 students:

16 (1) An instructional sequence of courses approved by
17 the State Board of Education.

18 (2) A State and nationally affiliated FFA (Future
19 Farmers of America) chapter that is integral to
20 instruction and is not treated solely as an
21 extracurricular activity.

22 (3) A mechanism for ensuring the involvement of all
23 secondary agricultural education students in formal,
24 supervised, agricultural-experience activities and
25 programs.

26 (f) Nothing in this Section may prevent those secondary

1 agricultural education programs that are in operation before
2 January 1, 2007 (the effective date of Public Act 94-855) ~~this~~
3 ~~amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly~~ and that do not
4 have an active State and nationally affiliated FFA chapter
5 from continuing to operate or from continuing to receive
6 funding from the State Board of Education.

7 (Source: P.A. 94-855, eff. 1-1-07; revised 8-24-20.)