

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 14-17 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/14-17 new)

7 Sec. 14-17. High-Cost Special Education Funding
8 Commission.

9 (a) The High-Cost Special Education Funding Commission is
10 created for the purpose of making recommendations to the
11 Governor and the General Assembly for an alternative funding
12 structure in this State for high-cost special education
13 students that is aligned to the principles of the
14 evidence-based funding formula in Section 18-8.15 in which
15 school districts furthest away from adequacy receive the
16 greatest amount of funding.

17 (b) The Commission shall consist of all of the following
18 members:

19 (1) One representative appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives, who shall serve as
21 co-chairperson.

22 (2) One representative appointed by the Minority
23 Leader of the House of Representatives.

1 (3) One senator appointed by the President of the
2 Senate, who shall serve as co-chairperson.

3 (4) One senator appointed by the Minority Leader of
4 the Senate.

5 (5) The State Superintendent of Education or a
6 designee.

7 (6) The Director of the Governor's Office of
8 Management and Budget or a designee.

9 (7) The Chairperson of the Advisory Council on the
10 Education of Children with Disabilities or a designee.

11 Additionally, within 60 days after the effective date of
12 this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly, the State
13 Superintendent of Education shall appoint all of the following
14 individuals to the Commission:

15 (A) One representative of a statewide association that
16 represents private special education schools.

17 (B) One representative of a statewide association that
18 represents special education cooperatives.

19 (C) One educator from a special education cooperative,
20 recommended by a statewide association that represents
21 teachers.

22 (D) One educator from a special education cooperative
23 that is not a member district of a special education
24 cooperative, recommended by a different statewide
25 association that represents teachers.

26 (E) One educator or administrator from a nonpublic

1 special education school.

2 (F) One representative of a statewide association that
3 represents school administrators.

4 (G) One representative of a statewide association that
5 represents school business officials.

6 (H) One representative of a statewide association that
7 represents private special education schools in rural
8 school districts.

9 (I) One representative from a residential program.

10 Members appointed to the Commission must reflect the
11 racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of this State.

12 (c) Members of the Commission shall serve without
13 compensation, but may be reimbursed for their reasonable and
14 necessary expenses from funds appropriated to the State Board
15 of Education for that purpose.

16 (d) The State Board of Education shall provide
17 administrative support to the Commission.

18 (e) To ensure that high-quality services are provided to
19 ensure equitable outcomes for high-cost special education
20 students, the Commission shall do all the following:

21 (1) Review the current system of funding high-cost
22 special education students in this State.

23 (2) Review the needs of high-cost special education
24 students in this State and the associated costs to ensure
25 high-quality services are provided to these students.

26 (3) Review how other states fund high-cost special

1 education students.

2 (4) If available, review other proposals and best
3 practices for funding high-cost special education
4 students.

5 (f) On or before November 30, 2021, the Commission shall
6 report its recommendations to the Governor and the General
7 Assembly.

8 (g) This Section is repealed on December 31, 2022.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
10 becoming law.