



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB3681

Introduced 2/17/2023, by Rep. Harry Benton and Diane Blair-Sherlock

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.196 new

Amends the State Board of Education Article of the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to create an Equity for Autistic Students Commission to research, recommend, and review policies that affect autistic students to ensure fair access to resources, therapies, education, and equity with a focused lens on historically marginalized groups. Provides that the Commission shall review different therapies and practices used or recommended for autistic students and, with the help of experts appointed to the Commission, decide if those therapies and practices are still the best therapies and practices. Provides that the Commission shall consist of members appointed by the State Board of Education and shall include experts in the field of autism in children and students. Provides that at least one member appointed to the Commission by the State Board of Education shall have autism. Provides that the State Board of Education shall provide administrative assistance and necessary staff support services. Provides for meetings and reporting.

LRB103 30466 DTM 56899 b

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 2-3.196 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.196 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.196. Equity for Autistic Students Commission.

8 (a) The State Board of Education shall create an Equity  
9 for Autistic Students Commission. The purpose of the  
10 Commission shall be to research, recommend, and review  
11 policies that affect autistic students to ensure fair access  
12 to resources, therapies, education, and equity with a focused  
13 lens on historically marginalized groups, such as persons who  
14 are considered Black, Indigenous, or people of color, girls,  
15 low-income, or English learners. The Commission shall review  
16 different therapies and practices used or recommended for  
17 autistic students and, with the help of experts appointed to  
18 the Commission, decide if those therapies and practices are  
19 still the best therapies and practices.

20 (b) The Commission shall consist of members appointed by  
21 the State Board of Education and shall include experts in the  
22 field of autism in children and students. At least one member  
23 appointed to the Commission by the State Board of Education

1 shall have autism.

2 Members of the Commission shall serve without  
3 compensation.

4 (c) The State Board of Education shall provide  
5 administrative assistance and necessary staff support  
6 services.

7 (d) The Commission shall meet at the call of the State  
8 Board of Education and shall report its findings and  
9 recommendations to the State Board of Education.