

1 AN ACT in relation to 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 2-3.25o as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25o new)

7 Sec. 2-3.25o. Registration and recognition of non-public  
8 elementary and secondary schools.

9 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds and declares

10 (i) that the Constitution of the State of Illinois provides  
11 that a "fundamental goal of the People of the State is the  
12 educational development of all persons to the limits of their  
13 capacities" and (ii) that the educational development of  
14 every school student serves the public purposes of the State.

15 In order to ensure that all Illinois students and teachers  
16 have the opportunity to enroll and work in State-approved  
17 educational institutions and programs, the State Board of  
18 Education shall provide for the voluntary registration and  
19 recognition of non-public elementary and secondary schools.

20 (b) Registration. All non-public elementary and  
21 secondary schools in the State of Illinois may voluntarily  
22 register with the State Board of Education on an annual  
23 basis. Registration shall be completed in conformance with  
24 procedures prescribed by the State Board of Education.  
25 Information required for registration shall include  
26 assurances of compliance (i) with federal and State laws  
27 regarding health examination and immunization, attendance,  
28 length of term, and nondiscrimination and (ii) with  
29 applicable fire and health safety requirements.

30 (c) Recognition. All non-public elementary and  
31 secondary schools in the State of Illinois may voluntarily

1 seek the status of "Non-public School Recognition" from the  
2 State Board of Education. This status may be obtained by  
3 compliance with administrative guidelines and review  
4 procedures as prescribed by the State Board of Education. The  
5 guidelines and procedures must recognize that some of the  
6 aims and the financial bases of non-public schools are  
7 different from public schools and will not be identical to  
8 those for public schools, nor will they be more burdensome.  
9 The guidelines and procedures must also recognize the  
10 diversity of non-public schools and shall not impinge upon  
11 the noneducational relationships between those schools and  
12 their clientele.

13 (d) Public purposes. The provisions of this Section are  
14 in the public interest, for the public benefit, and serve  
15 secular public purposes.

16 (e) Definition. For purposes of this Section, a  
17 non-public school means any non-profit, non-home-based, and  
18 non-public elementary or secondary school that is in  
19 compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and  
20 attendance at which satisfies the requirements of Section  
21 26-1 of this Code.

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
23 becoming law.