

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 34-18.33 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.33 new)

7 Sec. 34-18.33. Closure of school. Prior to the board voting
8 to close any school in the district, the board shall announce
9 its intention to do so at least 6 months prior to the vote.
10 Before the vote, the board shall conduct 3 public hearings,
11 each in a separate location, at times and places determined by
12 the board. The time of place of each hearing must be chosen to
13 ensure maximum participation within the school's local
14 attendance area.

15 If a preponderance of the testimony at the hearings is in
16 opposition to the closure, the board and any parties opposing
17 the closure must submit to federal mediation. A mediator from
18 the National Mediation Board shall be appointed to work with
19 the board and the opposing parties to determine whether the
20 school should be closed.

21 If there is no resolution within 60 days after submitting
22 to mediation, the board may not close the school until the
23 question of closing the school has been submitted to the
24 electors of the school's local attendance area at a regular
25 election and approved by a majority of the electors voting on
26 the question. The board must certify the question to the proper
27 election authority, which must submit the question at an
28 election in accordance with the Election Code. The election
29 authority must submit the question in substantially the
30 following form:

31 Shall the Chicago Board of Education be authorized to close

1 (insert name of school)?

2 The election authority must record the votes as "Yes" or "No".

3 If a majority of the electors voting on the question vote
4 in the affirmative, the board may close the school. If a
5 majority of the electors voting on the question vote in the
6 negative, the board may not attempt to close the school during
7 the current school year or the following school year.

8 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding
9 Section 8.30 as follows:

10 (30 ILCS 805/8.30 new)

11 Sec. 8.30. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8
12 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the
13 implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of
14 the 94th General Assembly.