

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 2-3.137 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.137 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.137. Textbook weight standards.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares all of the
9 following:

10 (1) Backpacks of elementary and secondary school
11 pupils often contain textbooks, binders, calculators,
12 personal computers, lunches, a change of clothing, sports
13 equipment, and more.

14 (2) Elementary and secondary school pupils are
15 carrying backpacks weighing as much as 40 pounds.

16 (3) Chiropractors, physical therapists, and
17 pediatricians are seeing an increased number of children
18 for spinal column injuries, nontraumatic back pain, and
19 significant postural changes from overloaded backpacks.

20 (4) Chiropractors and pediatricians recommend that
21 backpacks not exceed more than 15% of a pupil's body
22 weight.

23 (5) In 1999, more than 3,400 pupils between 5 and 14
24 years of age, inclusive, sought treatment in hospital
25 emergency rooms for injuries related to backpacks or book
26 bags according to the United States Consumer Product Safety
27 Commission.

28 (b) On or before July 1, 2006, the State Board of Education
29 shall adopt maximum weight standards for textbooks used by
30 pupils in elementary and secondary schools. The weight
31 standards shall take into consideration the health risks to
32 pupils who transport textbooks to and from school each day.

1 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding
2 Section 8.29 as follows:

3 (30 ILCS 805/8.29 new)

4 Sec. 8.29. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8
5 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the
6 implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of
7 the 94th General Assembly.