1   AN ACT concerning higher education.

2   **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**

3   **represented in the General Assembly:**

4   Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the

5   Volunteer Emergency Worker Higher Education Protection Act.

6   Section 5. Definitions. For the purposes of this Section:

7   "Institution of higher education" means the University of

8   Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago State

9   University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State

10 University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois

11 University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois

12 University, the public community colleges of this State, and

13 any other public universities, colleges, and community

14 colleges now or hereafter established or authorized by law.

15   "Volunteer emergency worker" means a volunteer emergency

16 worker as defined in the Volunteer Emergency Worker Job

17 Protection Act.

18   Section 10. Accommodation policy. Each public institution

19 of higher education must adopt a policy that reasonably

20 accommodates any student who is a volunteer emergency worker in

21 regard to absence from class caused by the performance of his

22 or her duties as a volunteer emergency worker. This policy

23 shall include a grievance procedure by which a student who

24 believes that he or she has been unreasonably denied this

25 accommodation may seek redress.

26   Section 15. Publication of policy. Each institution of

27 higher education must publish the policy adopted under Section

28 10 of this Act in a handbook, manual, or other similar document

29 regularly provided to faculty and students.

1   Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding
2   Section 8.30 as follows:

3   (30 ILCS 805/8.30 new)
4   Sec. 8.30. 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 the Volunteer
7   Emergency Worker Higher Education Protection Act.

8   Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on July
9   1, 2006.