

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds and declares the
3 following:

4 (a) Illinois has over one million deaf and hard of
5 hearing residents;

6 (b) American Sign Language (ASL) is a fully-developed,
7 visual-gestural language with distinct grammar, syntax,
8 and symbols and is one of hundreds of signed languages in
9 the world;

10 (c) The American deaf community is a group of citizens
11 who are members of a unique culture who share ASL as their
12 common language; and

13 (d) High school graduation requirements under Section
14 27-22 of the School Code require students to take one year
15 of music, art, vocational education, or a foreign language,
16 which includes ASL; and

17 WHEREAS, The General Assembly hereby also declares the
18 purpose and intent of this amendatory Act to be as follows:

19 (a) To recognize ASL as the language of the American
20 deaf community; and

21 (b) To authorize and encourage public and independent
22 schools, including post-secondary schools, to offer ASL as
23 a course of study and to accept ASL credits as
24 foreign-language credits; therefore

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
2 **represented in the General Assembly:**

3 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Sections
4 10-20.46 and 34-18.37 as follows:

5 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.46 new)

6 Sec. 10-20.46. American Sign Language courses. School
7 boards are encouraged to implement American Sign Language
8 courses into school foreign language curriculum. Rulemaking
9 authority to implement this amendatory Act of the 96th General
10 Assembly, if any, is conditioned on the rules being adopted in
11 accordance with all provisions of the Illinois Administrative
12 Procedure Act and all rules and procedures of the Joint
13 Committee on Administrative Rules; any purported rule not so
14 adopted, for whatever reason, is unauthorized.

15 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.37 new)

16 Sec. 34-18.37. American Sign Language courses. The school
17 board is encouraged to implement American Sign Language courses
18 into school foreign language curriculum. Rulemaking authority
19 to implement this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly,
20 if any, is conditioned on the rules being adopted in accordance
21 with all provisions of the Illinois Administrative Procedure
22 Act and all rules and procedures of the Joint Committee on
23 Administrative Rules; any purported rule not so adopted, for

1 whatever reason, is unauthorized.

2 Section 10. The University of Illinois Act is amended by
3 changing Section 8 and by adding Section 45 as follows:

4 (110 ILCS 305/8) (from Ch. 144, par. 29)

5 Sec. 8. Admissions.

6 (a) No student shall be admitted to instruction in any of
7 the departments of the University who shall not have attained
8 to the age of fifteen (15) years, and who shall not previously
9 undergo a satisfactory examination in each of the branches
10 ordinarily taught in the common schools of the state.

11 (b) In addition, commencing in the fall of 1993, no new
12 student shall then or thereafter be admitted to instruction in
13 any of the departments or colleges of the University unless
14 such student also has satisfactorily completed:

15 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
16 the following 5 categories:

17 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
18 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
19 years may be collegiate level instruction;

20 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
21 and government);

22 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
23 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
24 fundamentals of computer programming);

1 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

2 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
3 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,
4 vocational education or art;

5 (2) except that institutions may admit individual
6 applicants if the institution determines through
7 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
8 outcomes of the coursework taken, including vocational
9 education courses and courses taken in a charter school
10 established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the
11 applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially
12 equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be
13 acquired in the high school courses required for admission.
14 The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois shall
15 not discriminate in the University's admissions process
16 against an applicant for admission because of the
17 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
18 under Article 27A of the School Code. Institutions may also
19 admit 1) applicants who did not have an opportunity to
20 complete the minimum college preparatory curriculum in
21 high school, and 2) educationally disadvantaged applicants
22 who are admitted to the formal organized special assistance
23 programs that are tailored to the needs of such students,
24 providing that in either case, the institution
25 incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum
26 courses or other academic activities that compensate for

1 course deficiencies; and

2 (3) except that up to 3 of the 15 units of coursework
3 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
4 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
5 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
6 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
7 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

8 (c) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
9 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
10 coursework required by subsection (b).

11 (d) A student who has graduated from high school and has
12 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
13 shall not be required to take the high school level General
14 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
15 admission.

16 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

17 (110 ILCS 305/45 new)

18 Sec. 45. American Sign Language courses. The University may
19 award academic credit for the successful completion of any
20 American Sign Language course offered or approved by the
21 University, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the
22 foreign language requirements of the University, except for
23 those requirements related to the content of a student's
24 academic major.

1 Section 15. The Southern Illinois University Management
2 Act is amended by changing Section 8e and by adding Section 30
3 as follows:

4 (110 ILCS 520/8e) (from Ch. 144, par. 658e)

5 Sec. 8e. Admissions.

6 (a) Commencing in the fall of 1993, no new student shall
7 then or thereafter be admitted to instruction in any of the
8 departments or colleges of the University unless such student
9 also has satisfactorily completed:

10 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
11 the following 5 categories:

12 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
13 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
14 years may be collegiate level instruction;

15 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
16 and government);

17 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
18 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
19 fundamentals of computer programming);

20 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

21 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
22 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,
23 vocational education or art;

24 (2) except that institutions may admit individual
25 applicants if the institution determines through

1 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
2 outcomes of the coursework taken, including vocational
3 education courses and courses taken in a charter school
4 established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the
5 applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially
6 equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be
7 acquired in the high school courses required for admission.

8 The Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University shall
9 not discriminate in the University's admissions process
10 against an applicant for admission because of the
11 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
12 under Article 27A of the School Code. Institutions may also
13 admit 1) applicants who did not have an opportunity to
14 complete the minimum college preparatory curriculum in
15 high school, and 2) educationally disadvantaged applicants
16 who are admitted to the formal organized special assistance
17 programs that are tailored to the needs of such students,
18 providing that in either case, the institution
19 incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum
20 courses or other academic activities that compensate for
21 course deficiencies; and

22 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
23 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
24 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
25 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
26 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5

1 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

2 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
3 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
4 coursework required by subsection (a).

5 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
6 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
7 shall not be required to take the high school level General
8 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
9 admission.

10 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

11 (110 ILCS 520/30 new)

12 Sec. 30. American Sign Language courses. The University may
13 award academic credit for the successful completion of any
14 American Sign Language course offered or approved by the
15 University, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the
16 foreign language requirements of the University, except for
17 those requirements related to the content of a student's
18 academic major.

19 Section 20. The Chicago State University Law is amended by
20 changing Section 5-85 and by adding Section 5-140 as follows:

21 (110 ILCS 660/5-85)

22 Sec. 5-85. Admission requirements.

23 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any

1 of the departments or colleges of the Chicago State University
2 unless such student also has satisfactorily completed:

3 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
4 the following 5 categories:

5 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
6 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
7 years may be collegiate level instruction;

8 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
9 and government);

10 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
11 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
12 fundamentals of computer programming);

13 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

14 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
15 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,
16 vocational education or art;

17 (2) except that Chicago State University may admit
18 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
19 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
20 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
21 and courses taken in a charter school established under
22 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
23 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
24 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
25 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
26 Trustees of Chicago State University shall not

1 discriminate in the University's admissions process
2 against an applicant for admission because of the
3 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
4 under Article 27A of the School Code. Chicago State
5 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
6 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
7 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
8 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
9 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
10 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
11 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
12 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
13 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

14 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
15 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
16 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
17 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
18 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
19 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

20 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
21 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
22 coursework required by subsection (a).

23 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
24 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
25 shall not be required to take the high school level General
26 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to

1 admission.

2 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

3 (110 ILCS 660/5-140 new)

4 Sec. 5-140. American Sign Language courses. The University
5 may award academic credit for the successful completion of any
6 American Sign Language course offered or approved by the
7 University, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the
8 foreign language requirements of the University, except for
9 those requirements related to the content of a student's
10 academic major.

11 Section 25. The Eastern Illinois University Law is amended
12 by changing Section 10-85 and by adding Section 10-140 as
13 follows:

14 (110 ILCS 665/10-85)

15 Sec. 10-85. Admission requirements.

16 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
17 of the departments or colleges of the Eastern Illinois
18 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
19 completed:

20 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
21 the following 5 categories:

22 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
23 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2

1 years may be collegiate level instruction;

2 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
3 and government);

4 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
5 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
6 fundamentals of computer programming);

7 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

8 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
9 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,
10 vocational education or art;

11 (2) except that Eastern Illinois University may admit
12 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
13 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
14 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
15 and courses taken in a charter school established under
16 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
17 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
18 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
19 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
20 Trustees of Eastern Illinois University shall not
21 discriminate in the University's admissions process
22 against an applicant for admission because of the
23 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
24 under Article 27A of the School Code. Eastern Illinois
25 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
26 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory

1 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
2 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
3 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
4 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
5 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
6 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
7 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

8 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
9 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
10 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
11 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
12 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
13 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

14 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
15 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
16 coursework required by subsection (a).

17 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
18 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
19 shall not be required to take the high school level General
20 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
21 admission.

22 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

23 (110 ILCS 665/10-140 new)

24 Sec. 10-140. American Sign Language courses. The
25 University may award academic credit for the successful

1 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
2 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
3 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
4 University, except for those requirements related to the
5 content of a student's academic major.

6 Section 30. The Governors State University Law is amended
7 by changing Section 15-85 and by adding Section 15-140 as
8 follows:

9 (110 ILCS 670/15-85)

10 Sec. 15-85. Admission requirements.

11 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
12 of the departments or colleges of the Governors State
13 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
14 completed:

15 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
16 the following 5 categories:

17 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
18 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
19 years may be collegiate level instruction;

20 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
21 and government);

22 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
23 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
24 fundamentals of computer programming);

1 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

2 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
3 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,
4 vocational education or art;

5 (2) except that Governors State University may admit
6 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
7 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
8 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
9 and courses taken in a charter school established under
10 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
11 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
12 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
13 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
14 Trustees of Governors State University shall not
15 discriminate in the University's admissions process
16 against an applicant for admission because of the
17 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
18 under Article 27A of the School Code. Governors State
19 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
20 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
21 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
22 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
23 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
24 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
25 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
26 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic

1 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

2 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
3 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
4 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
5 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
6 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
7 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

8 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
9 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
10 coursework required by subsection (a).

11 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
12 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
13 shall not be required to take the high school level General
14 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
15 admission.

16 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

17 (110 ILCS 670/15-140 new)

18 Sec. 15-140. American Sign Language courses. The
19 University may award academic credit for the successful
20 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
21 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
22 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
23 University, except for those requirements related to the
24 content of a student's academic major.

1 Section 35. The Illinois State University Law is amended by
2 changing Section 20-85 and by adding Section 20-145 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 675/20-85)

4 Sec. 20-85. Admission requirements.

5 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
6 of the departments or colleges of the Illinois State University
7 unless such student also has satisfactorily completed:

8 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
9 the following 5 categories:

10 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
11 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
12 years may be collegiate level instruction;

13 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
14 and government);

15 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
16 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
17 fundamentals of computer programming);

18 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

19 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
20 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,
21 vocational education or art;

22 (2) except that Illinois State University may admit
23 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
24 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
25 coursework taken, including vocational education courses

1 and courses taken in a charter school established under
2 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
3 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
4 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
5 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
6 Trustees of Illinois State University shall not
7 discriminate in the University's admissions process
8 against an applicant for admission because of the
9 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
10 under Article 27A of the School Code. Illinois State
11 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
12 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
13 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
14 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
15 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
16 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
17 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
18 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
19 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

20 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
21 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
22 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
23 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
24 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
25 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

26 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall

1 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
2 coursework required by subsection (a).

3 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
4 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
5 shall not be required to take the high school level General
6 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
7 admission.

8 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

9 (110 ILCS 675/20-145 new)

10 Sec. 20-145. American Sign Language courses. The
11 University may award academic credit for the successful
12 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
13 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
14 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
15 University, except for those requirements related to the
16 content of a student's academic major.

17 Section 40. The Northeastern Illinois University Law is
18 amended by changing Section 25-85 and by adding Section 25-140
19 as follows:

20 (110 ILCS 680/25-85)

21 Sec. 25-85. Admission requirements.

22 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
23 of the departments or colleges of the Northeastern Illinois

1 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
2 completed:

3 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
4 the following 5 categories:

5 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
6 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
7 years may be collegiate level instruction;

8 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
9 and government);

10 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
11 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
12 fundamentals of computer programming);

13 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

14 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
15 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,
16 vocational education or art;

17 (2) except that Northeastern Illinois University may
18 admit individual applicants if it determines through
19 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
20 outcomes of the coursework taken, including vocational
21 education courses and courses taken in a charter school
22 established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the
23 applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially
24 equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be
25 acquired in the high school courses required for admission.
26 The Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University

1 shall not discriminate in the University's admissions
2 process against an applicant for admission because of the
3 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
4 under Article 27A of the School Code. Northeastern Illinois
5 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
6 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
7 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
8 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
9 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
10 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
11 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
12 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
13 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

14 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
15 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
16 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
17 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
18 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
19 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

20 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
21 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
22 coursework required by subsection (a).

23 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
24 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
25 shall not be required to take the high school level General
26 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to

1 admission.

2 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

3 (110 ILCS 680/25-140 new)

4 Sec. 25-140. American Sign Language courses. The
5 University may award academic credit for the successful
6 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
7 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
8 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
9 University, except for those requirements related to the
10 content of a student's academic major.

11 Section 45. The Northern Illinois University Law is amended
12 by changing Section 30-85 and by adding Section 30-150 as
13 follows:

14 (110 ILCS 685/30-85)

15 Sec. 30-85. Admission requirements.

16 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
17 of the departments or colleges of the Northern Illinois
18 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
19 completed:

20 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
21 the following 5 categories:

22 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
23 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2

1 years may be collegiate level instruction;

2 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
3 and government);

4 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
5 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
6 fundamentals of computer programming);

7 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

8 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
9 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,
10 vocational education or art;

11 (2) except that Northern Illinois University may admit
12 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
13 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
14 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
15 and courses taken in a charter school established under
16 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
17 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
18 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
19 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
20 Trustees of Northern Illinois University shall not
21 discriminate in the University's admissions process
22 against an applicant for admission because of the
23 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
24 under Article 27A of the School Code. Northern Illinois
25 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
26 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory

1 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
2 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
3 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
4 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
5 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
6 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
7 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

8 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
9 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
10 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
11 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
12 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
13 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

14 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
15 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
16 coursework required by subsection (a).

17 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
18 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
19 shall not be required to take the high school level General
20 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
21 admission.

22 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

23 (110 ILCS 685/30-150 new)

24 Sec. 30-150. American Sign Language courses. The
25 University may award academic credit for the successful

1 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
2 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
3 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
4 University, except for those requirements related to the
5 content of a student's academic major.

6 Section 50. The Western Illinois University Law is amended
7 by changing Section 35-85 and by adding Section 35-145 as
8 follows:

9 (110 ILCS 690/35-85)

10 Sec. 35-85. Admission requirements.

11 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
12 of the departments or colleges of the Western Illinois
13 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
14 completed:

15 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
16 the following 5 categories:

17 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
18 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
19 years may be collegiate level instruction;

20 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
21 and government);

22 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
23 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
24 fundamentals of computer programming);

1 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

2 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
3 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,
4 vocational education or art;

5 (2) except that Western Illinois University may admit
6 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
7 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
8 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
9 and courses taken in a charter school established under
10 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
11 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
12 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
13 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
14 Trustees of Western Illinois University shall not
15 discriminate in the University's admissions process
16 against an applicant for admission because of the
17 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
18 under Article 27A of the School Code. Western Illinois
19 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
20 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
21 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
22 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
23 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
24 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
25 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
26 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic

1 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

2 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
3 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
4 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
5 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
6 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
7 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

8 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
9 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
10 coursework required by subsection (a).

11 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
12 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
13 shall not be required to take the high school level General
14 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
15 admission.

16 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

17 (110 ILCS 690/35-145 new)

18 Sec. 35-145. American Sign Language courses. The
19 University may award academic credit for the successful
20 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
21 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
22 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
23 University, except for those requirements related to the
24 content of a student's academic major.

1 Section 55. The Public Community College Act is amended by
2 adding Section 3-29.4 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 805/3-29.4 new)

4 Sec. 3-29.4. American Sign Language courses. To adopt
5 regulations for the awarding of academic credit for the
6 successful completion of any American Sign Language course
7 offered or approved by a community college, which may be
8 applied toward the satisfaction of any foreign language
9 requirements of the community college, except for those
10 requirements related to the content of a student's academic
11 major. Rulemaking authority to implement this amendatory Act of
12 the 96th General Assembly, if any, is conditioned on the rules
13 being adopted in accordance with all provisions of the Illinois
14 Administrative Procedure Act and all rules and procedures of
15 the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules; any purported rule
16 not so adopted, for whatever reason, is unauthorized.

17 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding
18 Section 8.33 as follows:

19 (30 ILCS 805/8.33 new)

20 Sec. 8.33. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8
21 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the
22 implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of
23 the 96th General Assembly.