

1 AN ACT concerning schools.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois Finance Authority Act is amended by
5 adding Section 825-100 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 3501/825-100 new)

7 Sec. 825-100. School Wind and Solar Generation Program.

8 (a) There is created the School Wind and Solar Generation
9 Program to fund wind generation projects and solar generation
10 projects for school districts and community college districts.
11 The Authority may implement and administer this program. Under
12 the program, the Authority may provide to school districts and
13 community college districts that apply, full or partial
14 low-interest loans for, without limitation, engineering
15 studies, feasibility studies, research studies, and
16 construction costs for wind generation projects and solar
17 generation projects. The loan funds, subject to appropriation,
18 shall be paid out of the School Wind and Solar Generation
19 Revolving Loan Fund. All repayments of loans shall be deposited
20 into the School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund.

21 (b) The Authority may make available information regarding
22 the School Wind and Solar Generation Program to all school
23 districts and community college districts in this State.

1 (c) The School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan
2 Fund is created as a special fund in the State treasury. The
3 School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund shall
4 consist of any moneys appropriated into the School Wind and
5 Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund, as well as all repayments
6 of loans made under the School Wind and Solar Generation
7 Program. All interest earned on moneys in the School Wind and
8 Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund shall be deposited into
9 the Fund. All money in the School Wind and Solar Generation
10 Revolving Loan Fund must be used, subject to appropriation, by
11 the Authority for the purposes of this Section.

12 (d) The Authority may accept additional funding for the
13 School Wind and Solar Generation Program from the federal
14 government and private donations.

15 (e) The Authority may adopt any rules necessary to
16 implement this Section.

17 Section 7. The Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and
18 Coal Resources Development Law of 1997 is amended by changing
19 Section 6-5.5 as follows:

20 (20 ILCS 687/6-5.5)

21 (Section scheduled to be repealed on December 12, 2015)

22 Sec. 6-5.5. Renewable energy grants.

23 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department may establish
24 and operate a renewable energy grant program to assist public

1 schools and community colleges with engineering studies and
2 feasibility studies and ~~school districts~~ in the installation,
3 acquisition, construction, and improvement of renewable energy
4 resources ~~in the public schools~~, including without limitation
5 solar energy (such as solar panels), geothermal energy, and
6 wind energy.

7 (b) Application for a grant under this Section must be in
8 the form and manner established by the Department. ~~The grant~~
9 ~~shall cover 50% of the cost for which the grant is sought, up~~
10 ~~to a maximum grant of \$1,000,000, if the applicant school~~
11 ~~district is able to demonstrate that it has funds to pay the~~
12 ~~other 50% of the cost.~~ The schools and community colleges
13 ~~school district~~ may accept private funds for their ~~its~~ portion
14 of the cost.

15 (c) The Department may adopt any rules that are necessary
16 to carry out its responsibilities under this Section.

17 (Source: P.A. 95-46, eff. 8-10-07.)

18 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
19 Section 5.719 as follows:

20 (30 ILCS 105/5.719 new)

21 Sec. 5.719. The School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving
22 Loan Fund.

23 Section 15. The School Code is amended by changing Sections

1 10-20.42 and 34-18.36 as follows:

2 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.42)

3 Sec. 10-20.42. Wind and solar farms ~~farm~~. A school
4 district may own and operate a wind or solar generation turbine
5 farm, either individually or jointly with a unit of local
6 government, school district, or community college district
7 that is authorized to own and operate a wind or solar
8 generation turbine farm, that directly or indirectly reduces
9 the energy or other operating costs of the school district. The
10 school district may ask for the assistance of any State agency,
11 including without limitation the State Board of Education, the
12 Illinois Power Agency, or the Environmental Protection Agency,
13 in obtaining financing options for a wind or solar generation
14 turbine farm.

15 (Source: P.A. 95-390, eff. 8-23-07; 95-805, eff. 8-12-08;
16 95-876, eff. 8-21-08.)

17 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.36)

18 Sec. 34-18.36. Wind and solar farms ~~farm~~. The school
19 district may own and operate a wind or solar generation turbine
20 farm, either individually or jointly with a unit of local
21 government, school district, or community college district
22 that is authorized to own and operate a wind or solar
23 generation turbine farm, that directly or indirectly reduces
24 the energy or other operating costs of the school district. The

1 school district may ask for the assistance of any State agency,
2 including without limitation the State Board of Education, the
3 Illinois Power Agency, or the Environmental Protection Agency,
4 in obtaining financing options for a wind or solar generation
5 turbine farm.

6 (Source: P.A. 95-390, eff. 8-23-07; 95-805, eff. 8-12-08;
7 95-876, eff. 8-21-08.)

8 Section 20. The Public Community College Act is amended by
9 changing Section 3-42.3 as follows:

10 (110 ILCS 805/3-42.3)

11 Sec. 3-42.3. Wind and solar farms ~~farm~~. To own and operate
12 a wind or solar generation turbine farm, either individually or
13 jointly with a unit of local government, school district, or
14 community college district that is authorized to own and
15 operate a wind or solar generation turbine farm, that directly
16 or indirectly reduces the energy or other operating costs of
17 the community college district. The board may ask for the
18 assistance of any State agency, including without limitation
19 the State Board, the Illinois Power Agency, or the
20 Environmental Protection Agency, in obtaining financing
21 options for a wind or solar generation turbine farm.

22 (Source: P.A. 95-390, eff. 8-23-07; 95-805, eff. 8-12-08.)

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