

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 Sections
5 22-65 and 10-23.13 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/22-65 new)

7 Sec. 22-65. The Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual
8 Abuse of Children. The Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual
9 Abuse of Children is created within the Department of Children
10 and Family Services. The Task Force shall consist of all of the
11 following members:

12 (1) One member of the General Assembly and one member
13 of the public, appointed by the President of the Senate.

14 (2) One member of the General Assembly and one member
15 of the public, appointed by the Minority Leader of the
16 Senate.

17 (3) One member of the General Assembly and one member
18 of the public, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
19 Representatives.

20 (4) One member of the General Assembly and one member
21 of the public, appointed by the Minority Leader of the
22 House of Representatives.

23 (5) The Director of Children and Family Services or his

1 or her designee.

2 (6) The State Superintendent of Education or his or her
3 designee.

4 (7) The Director of Public Health or his or her
5 designee.

6 (8) The Executive Director of the Illinois Violence
7 Prevention Authority or his or her designee.

8 (9) A representative of an agency that leads the
9 collaboration of the investigation, prosecution, and
10 treatment of child sexual and physical abuse cases,
11 appointed by the Director of Children and Family Services.

12 (10) A representative of an organization representing
13 law enforcement, appointed by the Director of State Police.

14 (11) A representative of a statewide professional
15 teachers' organization, appointed by the head of that
16 organization.

17 (12) A representative of a different statewide
18 professional teachers' organization, appointed by the head
19 of that organization.

20 (13) A representative of an organization involved in
21 the prevention of child abuse in this State, appointed by
22 the Director of Children and Family Services.

23 (14) A representative of an organization representing
24 school management in this State, appointed by the State
25 Superintendent of Education.

26 (15) Erin Merryn, for whom Section 10-23.13 of this

1 Code is named.

2 Members of the Task Force must be individuals who are
3 actively involved in the fields of the prevention of child
4 abuse and neglect and child welfare. The appointment of members
5 must reflect the geographic diversity of the State.

6 The Task Force shall elect a presiding officer by a
7 majority vote of the membership of the Task Force. The Task
8 Force shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.

9 The Task Force shall make recommendations for reducing
10 child sexual abuse in Illinois. In making those
11 recommendations, the Task Force shall:

12 (1) gather information concerning child sexual abuse
13 throughout the State;

14 (2) receive reports and testimony from individuals,
15 State and local agencies, community-based organizations,
16 and other public and private organizations;

17 (3) create goals for State policy that would prevent
18 child sexual abuse; and

19 (4) submit a final report with its recommendations to
20 the Office of the Governor and the General Assembly by
21 January 1, 2012.

22 The recommendations may include proposals for specific
23 statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation among State
24 agencies and between the State and local government.

25 The Task Force shall consult with employees of the
26 Department of Children and Family Services, the Criminal

1 Justice Information Agency, the Department of State Police, the
2 Illinois State Board of Education, and any other State agency
3 or department as necessary to accomplish the Task Force's
4 responsibilities under this Section.

5 The members of the Task Force shall serve without
6 compensation and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses.

7 The Task Force shall be abolished upon submission of the
8 final report to the Office of the Governor and the General
9 Assembly.

10 (105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 new)

11 Sec. 10-23.13. Policies addressing sexual abuse. To adopt
12 and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children that
13 may include age-appropriate curriculum for students in pre-K
14 through 5th grade; training for school personnel on child
15 sexual abuse; educational information to parents or guardians
16 provided in the school handbook on the warning signs of a child
17 being abused, along with any needed assistance, referral, or
18 resource information; available counseling and resources for
19 students affected by sexual abuse; and emotional and
20 educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be
21 successful in school.

22 Any policy adopted may address without limitation:

23 (1) methods for increasing teacher, student, and
24 parent awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of
25 children, including knowledge of likely warning signs

1 indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse;
2 (2) actions that a child who is a victim of sexual
3 abuse should take to obtain assistance and intervention;
4 and
5 (3) available counseling options for students affected
6 by sexual abuse.
7 This Section may be referred to as Erin's Law.

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
9 becoming law.