



## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

SB3543

Introduced 2/10/2010, by Sen. Toi W. Hutchinson

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Afterschool Youth Development Project Act. Provides that because it is the policy of this State to provide all young people between the ages of 6 and 19 with access to quality afterschool programs through a State commitment to sufficient and sustainable funding for programs that promote positive youth development, the Illinois Youth Development Council is created. Provides that the purpose of the Council is to provide oversight and coordination to the State's public funds currently invested to support positive youth development programs and activities and to set system-wide policies and priorities to accomplish 5 specified objectives. Provides that the Council shall be governed by a board of no less than 28 and no more than 32 members and that the Council shall reflect the regional, racial, socio-economic, and cultural diversity of the State to ensure representation of the needs of all Illinois youth. Contains provisions concerning Council member appointments; the establishment of an independent Youth Advisory Group; the major objectives of the Council; afterschool demonstration programs; reporting requirements; and other matters. Provides that the Council shall be created within the Department of Human Services and that the Department shall provide resources to the Council including administrative services and data collection. Effective immediately.

LRB096 20581 KTG 36479 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning children.

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 Afterschool Youth Development Project Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose and findings. The General Assembly  
7 declares that it is the policy of this State to provide all  
8 young people between the ages of 6 and 19 with access to  
9 quality afterschool programs through a State commitment to  
10 sufficient and sustainable funding for programs that promote  
11 positive youth development. The need for this policy is based  
12 on a series of facts:

13 The General Assembly finds that youth who are engaged in  
14 quality afterschool activities are more likely to succeed in  
15 academics, employment, and civic affairs than youth who do not  
16 participate in afterschool activities. Youth with high levels  
17 of participation in quality afterschool programs miss fewer  
18 days of school, have lower drop-out rates, and higher rates of  
19 graduation.

20 The General Assembly also finds that youth in Illinois face  
21 greater barriers to success than ever before:

22 (1) Statewide demand for quality afterschool  
23 activities far outpaces the current supply, with shortfall

1 estimates between 60 and 70 percent.

2 (2) Illinois youth spend fewer hours in school than in  
3 most other states and approximately 45% of all children in  
4 grades K-12 are either responsible for themselves or are in  
5 the care of a sibling during after school hours.

6 (3) On school days, the hours between 3:00 P.M. and  
7 6:00 P.M. are the peak hours for juvenile crime and  
8 experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and sex.

9 The General Assembly also finds that the State of Illinois,  
10 having demonstrated national leadership in advancing toward  
11 universal early childhood education, must also expand youth  
12 development programming in order to realize the full, continued  
13 benefits of public investment in Illinois' young people.

14 The policy established by this Act will be developed  
15 through an afterschool demonstration program the results of  
16 which will be used to establish standards and policies to  
17 design and fund a statewide system of quality afterschool  
18 programs accessible to all youth between the ages of 6 and 19  
19 that promote positive outcomes in such areas as education,  
20 employment, and civic success.

21 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

22 "Afterschool program" means positive youth development  
23 activities provided to youth between the ages of 6 and 19  
24 during the hours before or after school, during summer recess  
25 from school, or during the weekends. These activities may

1 include, but are not limited to, the following activity areas:  
2 academic support; arts, music, sports, cultural enrichment,  
3 and other recreation; health promotion and diseases  
4 prevention; life skills and work and career development; and  
5 youth leadership development. For the purposes of this Act,  
6 "afterschool program" also means a program funded under the  
7 Afterschool Demonstration Program.

8 "Demonstration" or "Demonstration Program" means the  
9 Afterschool Demonstration Program as established under this  
10 Act.

11 "Council" means the Illinois Youth Development Council.

12 "Community advisory group" means a group of key local  
13 stakeholders convened to help ensure effective program  
14 delivery through increased collaboration. This group is  
15 required as a condition of participating in the demonstration  
16 period.

17 Section 15. Illinois Youth Development Council.

18 (a) Creation. In order to effectively achieve the policy  
19 established in this Act, the Illinois Youth Development Council  
20 shall be created. The purpose of the Council is to provide  
21 oversight and coordination to the State's public funds  
22 currently invested to support positive youth development  
23 programs and activities and to set system-wide policies and  
24 priorities to accomplish the following 5 major objectives: (i)  
25 Set afterschool program expansion priorities, such as

1 addressing gaps in programming for specific ages and  
2 populations; (ii) Create outcome measures and require all  
3 afterschool programs to be evaluated to ensure that outcomes  
4 are being met; (iii) Oversee the establishment of a statewide  
5 program improvement system that provides technical assistance  
6 and capacity building to increase program participation and  
7 quality system-wide; (iv) Monitor and assess afterschool  
8 program quality through outcome measures; and (v) Establish  
9 State policy to support the attainment of outcomes. The Council  
10 shall be created within the Department of Human Services.

11 (b) Governance. The Illinois Youth Development Council  
12 shall reflect the regional, racial, socio-economic, and  
13 cultural diversity of the State to ensure representation of the  
14 needs of all Illinois youth. The Council shall be composed of  
15 no less than 28 and no more than 32 members. The Council may  
16 establish a defined length of term for membership on the  
17 Council.

18 (1) Membership. The Council shall include  
19 representation from both public and private organizations  
20 comprised of the following:

21 (A) Four members of the General Assembly: one  
22 appointed by the President of the Senate, one appointed  
23 by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one appointed by  
24 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one  
25 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
26 Representatives.

1           (B) The chief administrators of the following  
2 State agencies: the Department of Human Services; the  
3 Illinois State Board of Education; the Department of  
4 Children and Family Services; the Department of Public  
5 Health; the Department of Juvenile Justice; the  
6 Department of Healthcare and Family Services; the  
7 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; the  
8 Illinois Board of Higher Education; and the Illinois  
9 Community College Board.

10           (C) The Chair of the Illinois Workforce Investment  
11 Board and the Executive Director of the Illinois  
12 Violence Prevention Authority.

13           The following Council members shall be appointed by the  
14 Governor:

15           (D) Two officials from a unit of local government.

16           (E) At least 3 representatives of direct youth  
17 service providers and faith-based providers.

18           (F) Three young people between the ages of 16 and  
19 24.

20           (G) Two parents of children between the ages of 6  
21 and 19.

22           (H) One academic researcher in the field of youth  
23 development.

24           (I) Additional public members that include local  
25 government stakeholders and nongovernmental  
26 stakeholders with an interest in youth development and

1           afterschool programs, including representation from  
2           the following private sector fields and  
3           constituencies: child and youth advocacy; children and  
4           youth with special needs; child and adolescent health;  
5           business; and law enforcement.

6           Persons may be nominated by organizations representing  
7           the fields outlined in this Section. The Governor shall  
8           designate one of the Council members who is a nongovernment  
9           stakeholder to serve as co-chairperson. The Council shall  
10          create a sub-committee of additional direct youth service  
11          providers as well as other sub-committees as deemed  
12          necessary.

13          (2) Youth Advisory Group. To ensure that the Council is  
14          responsive to the needs and priorities of Illinois' young  
15          people, the Council shall establish an independent Youth  
16          Advisory Group, which shall be composed of a diverse body  
17          of 15 youths between the ages of 14 and 19 from across the  
18          State. Members that surpass the age of 19 while serving on  
19          the Youth Advisory Group may complete the term of the  
20          appointment. The Youth Advisory Group shall be charged  
21          with: (i) presenting recommendations to the Council 4 times  
22          per year on issues related to afterschool and youth  
23          development programming and policy; and (ii) reviewing key  
24          programmatic, funding, and policy decisions made by the  
25          Council. To develop priorities and recommendations, the  
26          Youth Advisory Group may engage students from across the

1 State via focus groups, on-line surveys, and other means.  
2 The Youth Advisory Group shall be administered by the  
3 Department of Human Services and facilitated by an  
4 independent, established youth organization with expertise  
5 in youth civic engagement.

6 (c) Activities. The major objectives of the Council shall  
7 be accomplished through the following activities:

8 (1) Publishing an annual plan that sets system goals  
9 for Illinois' afterschool funding that include key  
10 indicators, performance standards, and outcome measures  
11 and that outlines funding evaluation and reporting  
12 requirements.

13 (2) Developing and maintaining a system and processes  
14 to collect and report consistent program and outcome data  
15 on all afterschool programs funded by State and local  
16 government.

17 (3) Developing linkages between afterschool data  
18 systems and other statewide youth program outcome data  
19 systems (e.g. schools, post-secondary education, juvenile  
20 justice, etc.).

21 (4) Developing procedures for implementing an  
22 evaluation of the statewide system of program providers,  
23 including programs established by this Act.

24 (5) Reviewing evaluation results and data reports to  
25 inform future investments and allocations and to shape  
26 State policy.



1           (6)       Developing       technical       assistance       and  
2       capacity-building infrastructure and ensuring appropriate  
3       workforce development strategies across agencies for those  
4       who will be working in afterschool programs.

5           (7)       Reviewing and making public recommendations to the  
6       Governor and the General Assembly with respect to the  
7       budgets for State youth services to ensure the adequacy of  
8       those budgets and alignment to system goals outlined in the  
9       plan described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

10          (8)       Developing and overseeing execution of a research  
11       agenda to inform future program planning.

12          (9)       Providing strategic advice to other State  
13       agencies, the Illinois General Assembly, and Illinois'  
14       Constitutional Officers on afterschool-related activities  
15       statewide.

16          (10)      Approving awards of grants to demonstration  
17       projects as outlined in Section 20 of this Act.

18       (d)       Accountability. The Council shall annually report to  
19       the Governor and the General Assembly on the Council's progress  
20       towards its goals and objectives. The Department of Human  
21       Services shall provide resources to the Council, including  
22       administrative services and data collection and shall be  
23       responsible for conducting procurement processes required by  
24       the Act. The Department may contract with vendors to provide  
25       all or a portion of any necessary resources.

1 Section 20. Afterschool Demonstration Program.

2 (a) Program. The Department of Human Services, in  
3 coordination with the Council, shall establish and administer a  
4 3-year statewide, quality Afterschool Demonstration Program  
5 with an evaluation and outcome-based expansion model. The  
6 ultimate goal of the Demonstration shall be to develop and  
7 evaluate the costs, impact, and quality outcomes of afterschool  
8 programs in order to establish an effective expansion toward  
9 universal access.

10 (b) Eligible activity areas. Afterschool programs created  
11 under the Demonstration Program shall serve youths in Illinois  
12 by promoting one or more of the following:

13 (1) Academic support activities, including but not  
14 limited to remediation, tutoring, homework assistance,  
15 advocacy with teachers, college preparatory guidance,  
16 college tours, application assistance, and college  
17 counseling.

18 (2) Arts, music, sports, recreation, and cultural  
19 enrichment, including structured, ongoing activities such  
20 as theatre groups, development of exhibits, graphic  
21 design, cultural activities, and sports and athletic  
22 teams.

23 (3) Health promotion and disease prevention, including  
24 activities and tools for increasing knowledge and practice  
25 of healthy behavior, drug, alcohol, tobacco and pregnancy  
26 prevention, conflict resolution, and violence prevention.

1           (4) Life skills and work and career development  
2           activities that prepare youth for a successful transition  
3           to the workplace, including career awareness, job fairs,  
4           career exploration, job shadowing, work readiness skills,  
5           interview skills, resume building and work experience, and  
6           paid internships and summer jobs.

7           (5) Youth leadership development activities aimed at  
8           increasing youths' communication skills and ability to  
9           help a group make decisions, to facilitate or lead a group  
10          discussion, and to initiate and direct projects involving  
11          other people including civic engagement, service learning,  
12          and other activities that promote youth leadership.

13          (c) Eligible entities. Currently funded or new entities,  
14          including but not limited to the following, shall be eligible  
15          to apply for funding:

16                 (1) Schools or school districts.

17                 (2) Community-based organizations.

18                 (3) Faith-based organizations.

19                 (4) Park districts.

20                 (5) Libraries.

21                 (6) Cultural institutions.

22          (d) Program criteria. New or existing applicants shall  
23          demonstrate the capacity to achieve the goals of this Act and  
24          meet the deadlines set forth by the Council through:

25                 (1) The promotion of the development of those items  
26                 outlined in subsection (b) of this Section.

1           (2) Evidence of community need and collaboration  
2           to avoid duplicating or supplanting existing services,  
3           which shall be shown through the creation of or  
4           reliance on an appropriate, existing community  
5           advisory group composed of a diverse makeup of members  
6           that may include, but is not limited to, educators,  
7           afterschool providers, local government officials,  
8           local business owners, parents, and youth.

9           (3) Cost-effective methods that will maximize the  
10          impact of the total dollar amount of the award.

11          (e) Expansion. Three years from the award of the first  
12          dollars, initial findings of an outcome evaluation of the  
13          Demonstration, conducted by an independent evaluator as  
14          described in subsection (d) of Section 25 of this Act, shall be  
15          reported to the Council, the Governor, and the General Assembly  
16          with a hearing scheduled before the appropriate committees of  
17          the House and Senate for the purpose of establishing an  
18          effective expansion toward universal access. A positive  
19          outcome evaluation, whereby performance outcomes determined by  
20          the Council are met, shall trigger a phased-in expansion toward  
21          full implementation.

22          Section 25. Effectiveness of afterschool programs.

23          (a) Program standards. Research has shown that  
24          high-performing youth programs demonstrate shared features of  
25          program quality. The Council shall establish a universal

1 framework of youth development program standards that commonly  
2 define measurable indicators of program quality across the  
3 diverse array of eligible demonstration program activities.

4 (b) Evaluation and monitoring. Afterschool programs shall  
5 be held accountable to universal program quality standards as  
6 adopted by the Council. Data informing performance against  
7 these standards shall be monitored and collected by the  
8 Department of Human Services. Each afterschool program, in  
9 coordination with the corresponding community advisory group,  
10 shall also assess needs and gaps relative to addressing outcome  
11 goals.

12 (c) Capacity-building supports. A statewide program  
13 quality improvement system shall be established by the Council  
14 utilizing a qualified third party to provide assessment,  
15 coaching, technical assistance, and system and professional  
16 development. Provided supports shall first target those  
17 afterschool programs created under the Demonstration with the  
18 ultimate goal of expansion to support the larger statewide  
19 system of youth development program providers.

20 (d) Demonstration outcome evaluation. An evaluation of the  
21 Demonstration shall be conducted by a third-party evaluator or  
22 evaluators selected through a competitive request for  
23 proposals (RFP) process. The purpose of the evaluation is to  
24 determine how well the Demonstration Program meets the cost,  
25 impact, and quality outcome goals established by the Council.  
26 Initial findings shall be reported to the Council, the

1 Governor, and the General Assembly within 3 years from the  
2 award of the first dollars and shall be the primary determining  
3 evidence to trigger expansion as described in subsection (e) of  
4 Section 20 of this Act.

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6 becoming law.