



## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

HB3167

Introduced 2/24/2011, by Rep. Rich Brauer

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Grow Your Own Educational Service Provider Act. Establishes the Grow Your Own Educational Service Provider Initiative to effectively recruit and prepare staff of non-profit social service agencies who also provide public or private school educational services to obtain a higher level of or additional licensure or certification. Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall administer the Initiative as a grant competition to fund consortia that will carry out Grow Your Own Educational Service Provider preparation programs. Sets forth provisions concerning the selection of grantees, expenditures under the Initiative, implementation of the Initiative, and an independent program evaluation. Provides that funding of the Initiative is subject to appropriation.

LRB097 08203 NHT 48328 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Grow  
5 Your Own Educational Service Provider Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose. The Grow Your Own Educational Service  
7 Provider preparation programs established under this Act shall  
8 comprise a major new statewide initiative, known as the Grow  
9 Your Own Educational Service Provider Initiative. The  
10 Initiative shall effectively recruit and prepare staff of  
11 non-profit social service agencies who also provide public or  
12 private school educational services to obtain a higher level of  
13 or additional licensure or certification.

14 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

15 "Accredited program" means a regionally accredited,  
16 Board-approved program authorized to prepare service providers  
17 to fulfill all of the requirements to receive a higher level of  
18 or additional licensure or certification.

19 "Board" means the Board of Higher Education.

20 "Cohort" means a group of service provider candidates who  
21 are enrolled in and share experiences in the same program and  
22 are linked by their desire to obtain a higher level of or

1 additional licensure or certification and by their need for the  
2 services and supports offered by the Initiative.

3 "Community organization" means a non-profit organization  
4 that has a demonstrated capacity to train, develop, and  
5 organize parents and community leaders into a constituency that  
6 will hold the eligible school accountable for achieving high  
7 academic standards; in addition to organizations with a  
8 geographic focus, "community organization" includes general  
9 parent organizations, organizations of special education  
10 parents, and school employee unions.

11 "Eligible school" means a public or private elementary,  
12 middle, or secondary school in this State that utilizes staff  
13 of a non-profit social service agency to provide educational  
14 services.

15 "Initiative" means the Grow Your Own Educational Service  
16 Provider Initiative created under this Act.

17 "Paraeducator" means an individual with a history of  
18 demonstrated accomplishments in school staff positions such as  
19 teacher assistants, school-community liaisons, school clerks,  
20 and security aides.

21 "Parent and community leader" means an individual who has  
22 or had a child enrolled in an eligible school or schools and  
23 who has a history of active involvement in the school or who  
24 has a history of working to improve schools, including  
25 membership in a community organization.

26 "Program" means a Grow Your Own Educational Service

1 Provider preparation program established by a consortium under  
2 this Act.

3 "Service provider" means a staff person of a non-profit  
4 social service agency who also provides public or private  
5 school educational services and is a qualified worker as  
6 defined in Article 14 of the School Code; a qualified mental  
7 retardation professional as defined in the Mental Health and  
8 Developmental Disabilities Code; a licensed clinical  
9 professional counselor as defined in the Professional  
10 Counselor and Clinical Professional Counselor Licensing Act; a  
11 public or private school teacher; a direct care or  
12 rehabilitation staff member of the non-profit social service  
13 agency; an educational specialist, paraeducator, or  
14 paraprofessional; a certified occupational therapy assistant;  
15 or a certified physical therapy assistant.

16 Section 15. Creation of Initiative. The Grow Your Own  
17 Educational Service Provider Initiative is created. The Board  
18 shall administer the Initiative as a grant competition to fund  
19 consortia that will carry out Grow Your Own Educational Service  
20 Provider preparation programs.

21 Section 20. Selection of grantees. The Board shall award  
22 grants to qualified consortia that reflect the distribution and  
23 diversity of eligible schools across this State. In awarding  
24 grants, the Board shall select programs that successfully

1 address Initiative criteria and that reflect a diversity of  
2 strategies in terms of serving urban areas, serving rural  
3 areas, the nature of the participating institutions of higher  
4 education, and the nature of eligible schools on which a  
5 program is focused.

6 The Board shall select consortia that meet the following  
7 requirements:

8 (1) A consortium shall be composed of at least one  
9 4-year institution of higher education with an accredited  
10 program, at least one eligible school or group of eligible  
11 schools, and one or more community organizations. The  
12 consortium membership may also include a 2-year  
13 institution of higher education, a school employee union,  
14 or a regional office of education.

15 (2) The 4-year institution of higher education  
16 participating in the consortium shall have past,  
17 demonstrated success in preparing service providers.

18 (3) The consortium shall focus on a clearly defined set  
19 of eligible schools that will participate in the program.  
20 The consortium shall articulate the steps that it will  
21 carry out in preparing service providers for its  
22 participating schools.

23 (4) A candidate in a program under the Initiative must  
24 be a service provider.

25 (5) The consortium shall employ effective procedures  
26 for teaching the skills and knowledge needed to prepare

1 highly competent service providers. Professional  
2 preparation shall include on-going direct experience in  
3 target schools and evaluation of this experience.

4 (6) The consortium shall offer the program to cohorts  
5 of candidates, as defined in Section 10 of this Act, on a  
6 schedule that enables candidates to work full time while  
7 participating in the program and allows service providers  
8 to continue in their current positions. In any fiscal year  
9 in which an appropriation for the Initiative is made, the  
10 consortium shall guarantee that support will be available  
11 to an admitted cohort for the cohort's education for that  
12 fiscal year. At the beginning of the Initiative, programs  
13 that are already operating and existing cohorts of  
14 candidates under this model are eligible for funding.

15 (7) The institutions of higher education participating  
16 in the consortium shall document and agree to expend the  
17 same amount of funds in implementing the program that these  
18 institutions spend per student on similar educational  
19 programs. Grants received by the consortium shall  
20 supplement and not supplant these amounts.

21 (8) The Board shall establish additional criteria for  
22 review of proposals, including criteria that address the  
23 following issues:

24 (A) Previous experience of the institutions of  
25 higher education in preparing service providers and in  
26 working with students with non-traditional

1 backgrounds.

2 (B) The quality of the implementation plan,  
3 including strategies for overcoming institutional  
4 barriers to the progress of non-traditional  
5 candidates.

6 (C) If a community college is a participant, the  
7 nature and extent of existing articulation agreements  
8 and guarantees between the community college and the  
9 4-year institution of higher education.

10 (D) The number of candidates to be educated in the  
11 planned cohort or cohorts and the capacity of the  
12 consortium for adding cohorts in future cycles.

13 (E) Experience of the community organization or  
14 organizations in organizing parents and community  
15 leaders to achieve school improvement and a strong  
16 relational school culture.

17 (F) The qualifications of the person or persons  
18 designated by the 4-year institution of higher  
19 education to be responsible for cohort support and the  
20 development of a shared learning and social  
21 environment among candidates.

22 (G) The consortium's plan for collective  
23 consortium decision-making, involving all consortium  
24 members, including mechanisms for candidate input.

25 (H) The consortium's plan for direct impact of the  
26 program on the quality of education in the eligible

1 schools.

2 (I) The relevance of the curriculum to the needs of  
3 the eligible schools and positions, and the use in  
4 curriculum and instructional planning of principles  
5 for effective education for adults.

6 (J) The availability of classes under the program  
7 in places and times accessible to the candidates.

8 (K) Provision of a level of performance to be  
9 maintained by candidates as a condition of continuing  
10 in the program.

11 (L) The plan of the 4-year institution of higher  
12 education to ensure that candidates take advantage of  
13 existing financial aid resources before using the loan  
14 funds described in Section 25 of this Act.

15 (M) The availability of supportive services,  
16 including, but not limited to, transportation,  
17 technology, and technology support.

18 (N) A plan for continued participation of  
19 graduates of the program in a program of support for at  
20 least 2 years, including mentoring and group meetings.

21 (O) A plan for testing and qualitative evaluation  
22 of candidates' skills that ensures that graduates of  
23 the program are as prepared as other individuals  
24 completing the institution of higher education's  
25 accredited program for the higher level of or  
26 additional licensure or certification sought.

1 (P) A plan for internal evaluation that provides  
2 reports at least yearly on the progress of candidates  
3 towards obtaining a higher level of or additional  
4 licensure or certification and the impact of the  
5 program on the target schools and their communities.

6 (Q) Contributions from eligible schools and other  
7 consortia members to the program.

8 (R) Consortium commitment for sustaining the  
9 program over time, as evidenced by plans for reduced  
10 requirements for external funding, in subsequent  
11 cycles.

12 (S) The inclusion in the planned program of  
13 strategies derived from community organizing that will  
14 help candidates develop tools for working with parents  
15 and other community members.

16 Section 25. Expenditures under the Initiative.

17 (a) Every program under the Initiative shall implement a  
18 program of forgivable loans to cover any portion of tuition and  
19 fees of candidates under the program in excess of the  
20 candidates' grants-in-aid. All students admitted to a cohort  
21 are eligible for a forgivable student loan. Loans shall be  
22 fully forgiven if a graduate completes 5 years of service in an  
23 eligible school, with partial forgiveness for shorter periods  
24 of service. The Board shall establish standards for the  
25 approval of requests for waivers or deferrals from individuals

1 to waive this obligation. The Board shall also define standards  
2 for the fiscal management of these loan funds.

3 (b) The Board shall award grants under the Initiative in  
4 such a way as to provide the required support for a cohort of  
5 candidates for any fiscal year in which an appropriation for  
6 the Initiative is made. Program budgets must show expenditures  
7 and needed funds for the entire period that candidates are  
8 expected to be enrolled.

9 (c) No funds under the Initiative may be used to supplant  
10 the average per-capita expenditures by the institution of  
11 higher education for candidates.

12 (d) Where necessary, program budgets shall include the  
13 costs of indirect expenses, such as transportation,  
14 technology, and technology support, necessary to permit  
15 candidates to maintain their class schedules. Grant funds may  
16 be used by any member of a consortium to offset such costs, and  
17 the services may be provided by the community organization or  
18 organizations, by any other member of the consortium, or by  
19 independent contractors.

20 (e) The institution of higher education may expend grant  
21 funds to cover the additional costs of offering classes in  
22 community settings.

23 (f) The community organization or organizations may  
24 receive a portion of the grant money for the expenses of  
25 recruitment, community orientation, and counseling of  
26 potential candidates, for providing space in the community, and

1 for working with school personnel to facilitate individual work  
2 experiences and support of candidates.

3 (g) The eligible school may receive a portion of the grant  
4 money for expenses of supporting the work experiences of  
5 candidates and providing mentors for program graduates.

6 (h) One or more members of the consortium may expend funds  
7 to cover the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator.

8 Section 30. Implementation of Initiative. The Board shall  
9 develop guidelines and application procedures for the  
10 Initiative. The Board may, if it chooses, award a small number  
11 of planning grants during any fiscal year to potential  
12 consortia.

13 Section 35. Independent program evaluation. The Board  
14 shall contract for an independent evaluation of program  
15 implementation by each of its participating consortia and of  
16 the impact of each program, including the extent of candidate  
17 persistence in program enrollment, acceptance in an accredited  
18 program at a 4-year institution of higher education, completion  
19 of the higher level of or additional licensure or  
20 certification, subsequent effectiveness as a service provider,  
21 and persistence in providing public or private school  
22 educational services. The evaluation shall assess the  
23 Initiative's overall effectiveness and shall identify  
24 particular program strategies that are especially effective.

1           Section 40. Funding. Funding of the Initiative is subject  
2 to appropriation.

3           Section 45. Rules. The Board may adopt any rules necessary  
4 to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.