

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 Section
5 22-75 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/22-75 new)

7 Sec. 22-75. The Eradicate Domestic Violence Task Force.

8 (a) There is hereby created the Eradicate Domestic Violence
9 Task Force. The Eradicate Domestic Violence Task Force shall
10 develop a statewide effective and feasible prevention course
11 for high school students designed to prevent interpersonal,
12 adolescent violence based on the Step Back Program for boys and
13 girls. The State Board of Education shall provide
14 administrative staff and support to the task force.

15 (b) The Eradicate Domestic Violence Task Force shall do the
16 following:

17 (1) Conduct meetings to evaluate the effectiveness and
18 feasibility of statewide implementation of the curricula
19 of the Step Back Program at Oak Park and River Forest High
20 School, located in Cook County, Illinois, for the
21 prevention of domestic violence.

22 (2) Invite the testimony of and confer with experts on
23 relevant topics as needed.

1 (3) Propose content for integration into school
2 curricula aimed at preventing domestic violence.

3 (4) Propose the curricula content that should be
4 mandatory versus voluntary to best provide the desired
5 result of eradication of domestic violence.

6 (5) Propose a method of training facilitators on the
7 school curricula aimed at preventing domestic violence.

8 (6) Propose partnerships with anti-violence agencies
9 to assist with the facilitator roles and the nature of the
10 partnerships.

11 (7) Evaluate the approximate cost per school or school
12 district to implement and maintain school curricula aimed
13 at preventing domestic violence.

14 (8) Propose a funding source or sources to support
15 school curricula aimed at preventing domestic violence and
16 agencies that provide training to the facilitators, such as
17 a fee to be charged in domestic violence, sexual assault,
18 and related cases to be collected by the clerk of the court
19 for deposit into a special fund in the State treasury and
20 to be used to fund a proposed eradicate domestic violence
21 program in the schools of this State.

22 (9) Propose an evaluation structure to ensure that the
23 school curricula aimed at preventing domestic violence is
24 effectively taught by trained facilitators.

25 (10) Propose a method of evaluation for the purpose of
26 modifying the content of the curriculum over time,

1 including whether studies of the program should be
2 conducted by the University of Illinois' Interpersonal
3 Violence Prevention Information Center.

4 (11) Recommend legislation developed by the task
5 force, such as amending Sections 27-5 through 27-13.3 and
6 27-23.4 of this Code, and legislation to create a fee to be
7 charged in domestic violence, sexual assault, and related
8 cases to be collected by the clerk of court for deposit
9 into a special fund in the State treasury and to be used to
10 fund a proposed eradicate domestic violence program in the
11 schools of this State.

12 (12) Produce a report of the task force's findings on
13 best practices and policies, which shall include a plan
14 with a phased and prioritized implementation timetable for
15 implementation of school curricula aimed at preventing
16 domestic violence in schools. The task force shall submit a
17 report to the General Assembly on or before April 1, 2013
18 on its findings, recommendations, and implementation plan.
19 Any task force reports must be published on the State Board
20 of Education's Internet website on the date the report is
21 delivered to the General Assembly.

22 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives shall each appoint one co-chairperson
24 of the Eradicate Domestic Violence Task Force. The Minority
25 Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House of
26 Representatives shall each appoint one member to the task

1 force. In addition, the task force shall be comprised of the
2 following members appointed by the State Board of Education and
3 shall be representative of the geographic, racial, and ethnic
4 diversity of this State:

5 (1) Four representatives involved with a program for
6 high school students at a high school that is located in a
7 municipality with a population of 2,000,000 or more and the
8 program is a daily, 6-week to 9-week, 45-session,
9 gender-specific, primary prevention course designed to
10 raise awareness of topics such as dating and domestic
11 violence, any systematic conduct that causes measurable
12 physical harm or emotional distress, sexual assault,
13 digital abuse, self-defense, and suicide.

14 (2) A representative of an interpersonal violence
15 prevention program within a State university.

16 (3) A representative of a statewide nonprofit,
17 nongovernmental, domestic violence organization.

18 (4) A representative of a different nonprofit,
19 nongovernmental domestic violence organization that is
20 located in a municipality with a population of 2,000,000 or
21 more.

22 (5) A representative of a statewide nonprofit,
23 nongovernmental, sexual assault organization.

24 (6) A representative of a different nonprofit,
25 nongovernmental, sexual assault organization based in a
26 county with a population of 3,000,000 or more.

1 (7) The State Superintendent of Education or his or her
2 designee.

3 (8) The Chief Executive Officer of City of Chicago
4 School District 299 or his or her designee or the President
5 of the Chicago Board of Education or his or her designee.

6 (9) A representative of the Department of Human
7 Services.

8 (10) A representative of a statewide, nonprofit
9 professional organization representing law enforcement
10 executives.

11 (11) A representative of the Chicago Police
12 Department, Youth Services Division.

13 (12) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for the First
14 Judicial District or his or her designee.

15 (d) The following underlying purposes should be liberally
16 construed by the task force convened under this Section:

17 (1) Recognize that, according to the Centers for
18 Disease Control and Prevention, National Intimate Partner
19 and Sexual Violence Survey, December 2010 Summary Report,
20 on average 24 people per minute are victims of rape,
21 physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in
22 the United States, equaling more than 12 million women and
23 men.

24 (2) Recognize that abused children and children
25 exposed to domestic violence in their homes may have short
26 and long-term physical, emotional, and learning problems,

1 including increased aggression, decreased responsiveness
2 to adults, failure to thrive, posttraumatic stress
3 disorder, depression, anxiety, hyper vigilance and
4 hyperactivity, eating and sleeping problems, and
5 developmental delays, according to the Journal of
6 Interpersonal Violence and the Futures Without Violence
7 organization.

8 (3) Recognize that the Illinois Violence Prevention
9 Authority has found that children exposed to violence in
10 the media may become numb to the horror of violence, may
11 gradually accept violence as a way to solve problems, may
12 imitate the violence they see, and may identify with
13 certain characters, victims, or victimizers.

14 (4) Recognize that crimes and the incarceration of
15 youth are often associated with a history of child abuse
16 and exposure to domestic violence, according to Futures
17 Without Violence.

18 (5) Recognize that the cost of prosecuting crime in
19 this State is unnecessarily high due to a lack of
20 prevention programs designed to eradicate domestic
21 violence.

22 (6) Recognize that sexual violence, stalking, and
23 intimate partner violence are serious and widespread
24 public health problems for children and adults in this
25 State.

26 (7) Recognize that intervention programs aimed at

1 preventing domestic violence may yield better results than
2 programs aimed at treating the victims of domestic
3 violence, because treatment programs may reduce the
4 likelihood that a particular woman will be re-victimized,
5 but might not otherwise reduce the overall amount of
6 domestic violence.

7 (8) Recognize that uniform, effective, feasible, and
8 widespread prevention of sexual violence and intimate
9 partner violence is a high priority in this State.

10 (9) Recognize that the Step Back Program at Oak Park
11 and River Forest High School in Cook County, Illinois, is a
12 daily, 6 to 9 week, 45-session, gender-specific, primary
13 prevention course for high school students designed to
14 raise awareness of topics, including dating and domestic
15 violence, bullying and harassment, sexual assault, digital
16 abuse, self-defense, and suicide. The Step Back Program is
17 co-facilitated by the high school and a nonprofit,
18 nongovernmental domestic violence prevention specialist
19 and service provider.

20 (10) Develop a statewide effective prevention course
21 for high school students based on the Step Back Program for
22 boys and girls designed to prevent interpersonal,
23 adolescent violence.

24 (e) Members of the Eradicate Domestic Violence Task Force
25 shall receive no compensation for their participation, but may
26 be reimbursed by the State Board of Education for expenses in

1 connection with their participation, including travel, if
2 funds are available.

3 (f) Nothing in this Section or in the prevention course is
4 intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression
5 or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views
6 protected under the First Amendment to the United States
7 Constitution or under Section 3 or 4 of Article 1 of the
8 Illinois Constitution.

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