

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 26-17 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/26-17 new)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on November 2, 2012)

8 Sec. 26-17. The Commission for High School Graduation  
9 Achievement and Success.

10 (a) The General Assembly recognizes that the compulsory  
11 school age is one piece of the education spectrum. There is a  
12 great need to help children succeed in school and reach high  
13 school graduation. The Commission for High School Graduation  
14 Achievement and Success is hereby created to study the issue of  
15 high school graduation in this State, with the goals of  
16 increasing educational attainment, increasing high school  
17 graduation rates, and ultimately improving the workforce in  
18 this State. The Commission is tasked to examine and evaluate  
19 the following:

20 (1) graduation rates in this State;

21 (2) this State's mandatory attendance age;

22 (3) alternative educational programs currently being  
23 used in this State, including which are the most

1 successful, why they are successful, and whether they can  
2 be used by other school districts in this State;

3 (4) the funding structures and options for these  
4 alternative programs;

5 (5) alternative educational programs being used in  
6 other states and whether they would be successful in school  
7 districts in this State; and

8 (6) the effect that high school graduation has upon the  
9 job outlook for individuals.

10 (b) The alternative educational programs in this State that  
11 are to be studied by the Commission under subsection (a) of  
12 this Section shall include, but are not be limited to, the  
13 following:

14 (1) alternative schools, regional safe schools,  
15 truancy alternative programs, and dual credit/dual degree  
16 programs;

17 (2) the Shared Learning Infrastructure, online  
18 courses, and other technology alternatives;

19 (3) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics  
20 (STEM) Learning Exchanges;

21 (4) the Illinois Pathways Initiative;

22 (5) Accelerating Opportunity Grants; and

23 (6) the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education  
24 Program.

25 (c) The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House  
26 of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the

1 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall each  
2 appoint one member to the Commission. The State Superintendent  
3 of Education shall appoint one representative from the State  
4 Board of Education to the Commission. The Governor shall  
5 appoint a chairperson of the Commission. In addition, the  
6 Commission shall be comprised of the following members  
7 appointed by the Governor within 30 days after the effective  
8 date of this amendatory Act of the 97th General Assembly:

9 (1) one member appointed to represent intermediate  
10 service centers;

11 (2) one member appointed to represent regional offices  
12 of education;

13 (3) one representative of an association representing  
14 suburban school districts;

15 (4) one representative of an association representing  
16 large unit school districts;

17 (5) one representative of a statewide association  
18 representing school boards;

19 (6) one representative of a statewide association  
20 representing principals;

21 (7) one representative of a statewide association  
22 representing administrators;

23 (8) one representative of a statewide association  
24 representing school business officials;

25 (9) one representative of an organization representing  
26 an alternative education program;

1           (10) one representative of a statewide association  
2           representing teachers;

3           (11) one representative of a different statewide  
4           association representing teachers;

5           (12) one representative of an association representing  
6           urban teachers;

7           (13) one member appointed to represent parents or a  
8           parent organization;

9           (14) the chairperson of the Chicago Board of Education  
10           or his or her designee; and

11           (15) the chairperson of the Illinois P-20 Council or  
12           his or her designee.

13           Any additional members the Commission sees fit to appoint may  
14           be done so by the chairperson of the Commission.

15           (d) The Commission may begin to conduct business upon the  
16           appointment of a majority of voting members.

17           (e) The Office of the Governor, with help from the Illinois  
18           P-20 Council and research provided by the State Board of  
19           Education, shall provide administrative support to the  
20           Commission.

21           (f) Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation  
22           for their participation on the Commission.

23           (g) In addition to any other applicable laws and  
24           administrative rules, all aspects of the Commission shall be  
25           governed by the Freedom of Information Act, including  
26           exemptions as provided in Section 7 of the Freedom of

1 Information Act, as well as the Open Meetings Act. This Section  
2 shall not be construed so as to preclude other statutes from  
3 applying to the Commission or its activities.

4 (h) The Commission shall submit a final report of its  
5 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General  
6 Assembly on or before November 1, 2012. The Commission may  
7 submit other reports as it deems appropriate.

8 (i) The Commission is abolished on November 2, 2012, and  
9 this Section is repealed on November 2, 2012.

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