

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7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on November 2, 2012)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