



Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

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09700SB3259sam001

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 3259

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 3259 as follows:

3 on page 1, line 5, by replacing "and 26-14" with "26-14, and
4 26-16"; and

5 on page 12, immediately below line 17, by inserting the
6 following:

7 "(105 ILCS 5/26-16)

8 Sec. 26-16. Graduation incentives program.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

10 (1) it is critical to provide options for children to
11 succeed in school;

12 (2) family involvement is essential to keeping
13 children in school, with parents and families serving as
14 valuable resources;

15 (3) educational success promotes workforce opportunity

1 and development and builds a strong economic future for
2 Illinois as the economy demands a highly skilled workforce
3 that requires a high school diploma at a minimum;

4 (4) dropping out of school has a profound negative
5 impact on an individual's future potential, resulting in
6 limited job choices, lower wages, and less earned over a
7 person's lifetime than high school graduates;

8 (5) the State currently has programs, including the
9 Illinois Pathways Initiative, the Illinois Shared Learning
10 Environment and Infrastructure, STEM (science, technology,
11 engineering, and math) Learning Exchanges, college and
12 career readiness programs, college and university bridge
13 programs, dual credit and dual enrollment programs,
14 advanced placement courses, alternative schools, and
15 regional safe schools, that are capable of engaging
16 students in learning, providing students with a sense of
17 relevancy in academics, and motivating students to succeed
18 in school in order to earn a high school diploma; and

19 (6) it is also necessary for the State to continue to
20 explore diverse instructional delivery strategies, with
21 the above-mentioned programs, to accommodate various
22 learning styles and focus on statewide dropout
23 intervention and prevention.

24 (a-5) The purpose of this Section is to provide incentives
25 for and encourage all Illinois students who have experienced or
26 are experiencing difficulty in the traditional education

1 system to enroll in alternative programs. ~~it is critical to~~
2 ~~provide options for children to succeed in school. The purpose~~
3 ~~of this Section is to provide incentives for and encourage all~~
4 ~~Illinois students who have experienced or are experiencing~~
5 ~~difficulty in the traditional education system to enroll in~~
6 ~~alternative programs.~~

7 (b) Any student who is below the age of 20 years is
8 eligible to enroll in a graduation incentives program if he or
9 she:

10 (1) is considered a dropout pursuant to Section 26-2a
11 of this Code;

12 (2) has been suspended or expelled pursuant to Section
13 10-22.6 or 34-19 of this Code;

14 (3) is pregnant or is a parent;

15 (4) has been assessed as chemically dependent; or

16 (5) is enrolled in a bilingual education or LEP
17 program.

18 (c) The following programs qualify as graduation
19 incentives programs for students meeting the criteria
20 established in this Section:

21 (1) Any public elementary or secondary education
22 graduation incentives program established by a school
23 district or by a regional office of education.

24 (2) Any alternative learning opportunities program
25 established pursuant to Article 13B of this Code.

26 (3) Vocational or job training courses approved by the

1 State Superintendent of Education that are available
2 through the Illinois public community college system.
3 Students may apply for reimbursement of 50% of tuition
4 costs for one course per semester or a maximum of 3 courses
5 per school year. Subject to available funds, students may
6 apply for reimbursement of up to 100% of tuition costs upon
7 a showing of employment within 6 months after completion of
8 a vocational or job training program. The qualifications
9 for reimbursement shall be established by the State
10 Superintendent of Education by rule.

11 (4) Job and career programs approved by the State
12 Superintendent of Education that are available through
13 Illinois-accredited private business and vocational
14 schools. Subject to available funds, pupils may apply for
15 reimbursement of up to 100% of tuition costs upon a showing
16 of employment within 6 months after completion of a job or
17 career program. The State Superintendent of Education
18 shall establish, by rule, the qualifications for
19 reimbursement, criteria for determining reimbursement
20 amounts, and limits on reimbursement.

21 (5) Adult education courses that offer preparation for
22 the General Educational Development Test.

23 (d) Graduation incentives programs established by school
24 districts are entitled to claim general State aid, subject to
25 Sections 13B-50, 13B-50.5, and 13B-50.10 of this Code.
26 Graduation incentives programs operated by regional offices of

1 education are entitled to receive general State aid at the
2 foundation level of support per pupil enrolled. A school
3 district must ensure that its graduation incentives program
4 receives supplemental general State aid, transportation
5 reimbursements, and special education resources, if
6 appropriate, for students enrolled in the program.
7 (Source: P.A. 93-858, eff. 1-1-05; 93-1079, eff. 1-21-05.)".