

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 2-3.163 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.163 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.163. Attendance Commission.

8 (a) The Attendance Commission is created within the State
9 Board of Education to study the issue of chronic absenteeism in
10 this State and make recommendations for strategies to prevent
11 chronic absenteeism. The Commission shall consist of all of the
12 following members:

13 (1) The Director of the Department of Children and
14 Family Services or his or her designee.

15 (2) The Chairperson of the State Board of Education or
16 his or her designee.

17 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Higher Education or
18 his or her designee.

19 (4) The Secretary of the Department of Human Services
20 or his or her designee.

21 (5) The Director of the Department of Public Health or
22 his or her designee.

23 (6) The Chairperson of the Illinois Community College

1 Board or his or her designee.

2 (7) The Chairperson of the State Charter School
3 Commission or his or her designee.

4 (8) An individual that deals with children's
5 disabilities, impairments, and social emotional issues,
6 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

7 (9) One member from each of the following
8 organizations, appointed by the State Superintendent of
9 Education:

10 (A) A non-profit organization that advocates for
11 students in temporary living situations.

12 (B) An Illinois-focused, non-profit organization
13 that advocates for the well-being of all children and
14 families in this State.

15 (C) An Illinois non-profit, anti-crime
16 organization of law enforcement that researches and
17 recommends early learning and youth development
18 strategies to reduce crime.

19 (D) An Illinois non-profit organization that
20 conducts community-organizing around family issues.

21 (E) A statewide professional teachers'
22 organization.

23 (F) A different statewide professional teachers'
24 organization.

25 (G) A professional teachers' organization in a
26 city having a population exceeding 500,000.

1 (H) An association representing school
2 administrators.

3 (I) An association representing school board
4 members.

5 (J) An association representing school principals.

6 (K) An association representing regional
7 superintendents of schools.

8 (L) An association representing parents.

9 (M) An association representing high school
10 districts.

11 (N) An association representing large unit
12 districts.

13 (O) An organization that advocates for healthier
14 school environments in Illinois.

15 (P) An organization that advocates for the health
16 and safety of Illinois youth and families by providing
17 capacity building services.

18 Attendance Commission members shall serve without
19 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses
20 from appropriations to the State Board of Education available
21 for that purpose and subject to the rules of the appropriate
22 travel control board.

23 (b) The Attendance Commission shall meet initially at the
24 call of the State Superintendent of Education. The members
25 shall elect a chairperson at their initial meeting. Thereafter,
26 the Attendance Commission shall meet at the call of the

1 chairperson. The Attendance Commission shall hold hearings on a
2 periodic basis to receive testimony from the public regarding
3 attendance.

4 (c) The Attendance Commission shall identify strategies,
5 mechanisms, and approaches to help parents, educators,
6 principals, superintendents, and the State Board of Education
7 address and prevent chronic absenteeism and shall recommend to
8 the General Assembly and State Board of Education:

9 (1) a standard for attendance and chronic absenteeism,
10 defining attendance as a calculation of standard clock
11 hours in a day that equal a full day based on instructional
12 minutes for both a half day and a full day per learning
13 environment;

14 (2) mechanisms to improve data systems to monitor and
15 track chronic absenteeism across this State in a way that
16 identifies trends from prekindergarten through grade 12
17 and allows the identification of students who need
18 individualized chronic absenteeism prevention plans;

19 (3) mechanisms for reporting and accountability for
20 schools and districts across this State, including
21 creating multiple measure indexes for reporting;

22 (4) best practices for utilizing attendance and
23 chronic absenteeism data to create multi-tiered systems of
24 support and prevention that will result in students being
25 ready for college and career; and

26 (5) new initiatives and responses to ongoing

1 challenges presented by chronic absenteeism.

2 (d) The State Board of Education shall provide
3 administrative support to the Commission. The Attendance
4 Commission shall submit an annual report to the General
5 Assembly and the State Board of Education no later than
6 December 15 of each year.

7 (e) The Attendance Commission is abolished and this Section
8 is repealed on December 16, 2020.

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