



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB4322

by Rep. Margo McDermed

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.58 new

Amends the School Code. Provides that, before making any decisions on a school closure, a school board (other than the Chicago Board of Education) shall appoint a district advisory committee to advise and make recommendations to the school board about the school closure. Sets forth provisions concerning committee membership, information the committee must gather, and public hearings. Requires the committee to make a recommendation to the school board on school closure, and requires the school board to take into account the committee's recommendation on school closure when making a final decision.

LRB099 14856 NHT 39034 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

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 10-20.58 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.58 new)

7 Sec. 10-20.58. School closure; district advisory
8 committee.

9 (a) In this Section, "school closure" means the closing of
10 a school the effect of which is the assignment and transfer of
11 all students enrolled at that school to one or more designated
12 receiving schools.

13 (b) Before making any decisions on a school closure, a
14 school board shall appoint a district advisory committee to
15 advise and make recommendations to the school board about the
16 school closure. The committee shall consist of 9 members. The
17 following shall be represented on the committee:

18 (1) The ethnic, age group, and socioeconomic
19 composition of the school district.

20 (2) The business community within the boundaries of the
21 district.

22 (3) Landowners or renters within the boundaries of the
23 district.

1 (4) In a district with multiple schools, a community
2 member from the boundaries of each school in the district.

3 (5) Teachers employed by the district.

4 (6) District administrators.

5 (7) Parents of students who are enrolled in the
6 district.

7 (8) Persons with expertise in environmental impacts,
8 legal contracts, building codes, and land-use planning.

9 The members of the district advisory committee shall serve
10 without compensation. The committee shall elect a chairperson
11 from among its members.

12 (c) Before making any recommendations on school closure,
13 the district advisory committee shall gather the following
14 information:

15 (1) The enrollment projections for the school
16 district, including enrollment projections for each school
17 in the district and the projection's impact on each school
18 facility.

19 (2) The capacity and conditions of existing schools and
20 their ability to accommodate displaced students.

21 (3) The per-student operating cost at each of the
22 district's schools.

23 (4) The education program and opportunity at each of
24 the district's schools.

25 (5) The cost-savings that would result from the closure
26 of a school.

1 (6) The transportation options for displaced students.

2 (7) Cost-saving alternatives to closing schools.

3 The district advisory committee shall gather any other
4 pertinent information on the school district that it deems
5 necessary in order to advise the school board on school
6 closure. The district shall provide the committee with any
7 information requested by the committee and shall provide
8 administrative and other support to the committee.

9 (d) The district advisory committee shall hold a public
10 hearing at each of the schools in the school district to elicit
11 public comment on the possibility of school closure and the
12 effects that the school closure would have on the students,
13 parents, and the community. A public notice of each public
14 hearing must be published at least 5 days before the hearing on
15 the district's Internet website, if any, and in a newspaper of
16 general circulation in the geographic region of the district.

17 Following these public hearings, the district advisory
18 committee shall make a recommendation, based on its analysis
19 and conclusions, to the school board on school closure. The
20 school board shall take into account the committee's
21 recommendation on school closure when making a final decision.
22 Upon making its recommendation, the committee is dissolved.