



## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB5036

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 or school opening, 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 or school opening. Sets forth provisions concerning committee membership, compensation, and meetings; information the committee must gather; and public hearings. Requires the committee to make a recommendation to the school board on the school closure or school opening, and requires the school board to take into account the committee's recommendation on the school closure or school opening when making a final decision.

LRB099 18550 NHT 42929 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 and opening; district  
8 advisory committee.

9 (a) In this Section:

10 "Committee" means the district advisory committee  
11 appointed under this Section.

12 "School closure" means the closing of a school in a school  
13 district with 2 or more schools, the effect of which is the  
14 assignment and transfer of all students enrolled at that school  
15 to one or more designated receiving schools.

16 "School opening" means the opening of a new school within  
17 an existing school district.

18 (b) Before making any decisions on a school closure or  
19 school opening, a school board shall appoint a district  
20 advisory committee to advise and make recommendations to the  
21 school board about the school closure or school opening. The  
22 committee shall consist of 9 members. The following shall be  
23 represented on the committee:

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

3           (2) The business community within the boundaries of the  
4           district.

5           (3) Landowners or renters within the boundaries of the  
6           district.

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

9           (5) Teachers employed by the district.

10          (6) District administrators.

11          (7) Parents of students who are enrolled in the  
12          district.

13          (8) Persons with expertise in school finance,  
14          environmental impacts, legal contracts, building codes,  
15          and land-use planning.

16          The members of the committee shall serve without compensation.

17          Prior to the committee's first public hearing under  
18          subsection (d) of this Section, the district superintendent  
19          shall call a meeting of the committee. At this first meeting,  
20          the committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members.  
21          Subsequent public hearings under subsection (d) of this Section  
22          shall be called by the chairperson.

23          (c) Before making any recommendations on school closure or  
24          a school opening, the committee shall gather the following  
25          information at public hearings under subsection (d) of this  
26          Section:

1           (1) The enrollment projections for the school  
2           district, including enrollment projections for each school  
3           in the district, enrollment projections for a school being  
4           opened, and the impact on each school facility of the  
5           enrollment projections.

6           (2) The capacity and conditions of existing schools and  
7           their ability to accommodate displaced students due to a  
8           school closure.

9           (3) The per-student operating cost at each of the  
10           district's schools, including an estimate for the new  
11           school being opened.

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

14           (5) The cost savings that would result from the closure  
15           of a school.

16           (6) The financial and economic impact of a school  
17           opening.

18           (7) The transportation options for displaced students  
19           due to a school closure and estimated transportation costs  
20           and options for students enrolling in a new school.

21           (8) Cost-saving alternatives to closing schools.

22           The committee shall gather any other pertinent information  
23           on the district that it deems necessary in order to advise the  
24           school board on the school closure or school opening. The  
25           district shall provide the committee with any information  
26           requested by the committee.

1       (d) The committee shall hold a public hearing at each of  
2 the schools in the school district to elicit public comment on  
3 the possibility of school closure or a school opening and the  
4 effects that the school closure or school opening would have on  
5 the students, their parents, and the community. A public notice  
6 of each public hearing must be published at least 5 days before  
7 the hearing on the district's Internet website and in a  
8 newspaper of general circulation in the geographic region of  
9 the district.

10       Following the public hearings, the committee shall make a  
11 recommendation, based on its analysis and conclusions, to the  
12 school board on the school closure or school opening. The  
13 school board shall take into account the committee's  
14 recommendation on the school closure or school opening when  
15 making a final decision.