



Sen. Ira I. Silverstein

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LRB099 19577 NHT 47465 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2840

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 2840 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 3-15.12 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/3-15.12) (from Ch. 122, par. 3-15.12)

7 Sec. 3-15.12. High school equivalency testing program. The
8 regional superintendent of schools shall make available for
9 qualified individuals residing within the region a High School
10 Equivalency Testing Program. For that purpose the regional
11 superintendent alone or with other regional superintendents
12 may establish and supervise a testing center or centers to
13 administer the secure forms for high school equivalency testing
14 to qualified persons. Such centers shall be under the
15 supervision of the regional superintendent in whose region such
16 centers are located, subject to the approval of the Executive

1 Director of the Illinois Community College Board.

2 An individual is eligible to apply to the regional
3 superintendent of schools for the region in which he or she
4 resides if he or she is: (a) a person who is 17 years of age or
5 older, has maintained residence in the State of Illinois, and
6 is not a high school graduate; (b) a person who is successfully
7 completing an alternative education program under Section
8 2-3.81, Article 13A, or Article 13B; or (c) a person who is
9 enrolled in a youth education program sponsored by the Illinois
10 National Guard. For purposes of this Section, residence is that
11 abode which the applicant considers his or her home. Applicants
12 may provide as sufficient proof of such residence and as an
13 acceptable form of identification a driver's license, valid
14 passport, military ID, or other form of government-issued
15 national or foreign identification that shows the applicant's
16 name, address, date of birth, signature, and photograph or
17 other acceptable identification as may be allowed by law or as
18 regulated by the Illinois Community College Board. Such
19 regional superintendent shall determine if the applicant meets
20 statutory and regulatory state standards. If qualified the
21 applicant shall at the time of such application pay a fee
22 established by the Illinois Community College Board, which fee
23 shall be paid into a special fund under the control and
24 supervision of the regional superintendent. Such moneys
25 received by the regional superintendent shall be used, first,
26 for the expenses incurred in administering and scoring the

1 examination, and next for other educational programs that are
2 developed and designed by the regional superintendent of
3 schools to assist those who successfully complete high school
4 equivalency testing in furthering their academic development
5 or their ability to secure and retain gainful employment,
6 including programs for the competitive award based on test
7 scores of college or adult education scholarship grants or
8 similar educational incentives. Any excess moneys shall be paid
9 into the institute fund.

10 Any applicant who has achieved the minimum passing
11 standards as established by the Illinois Community College
12 Board shall be notified in writing by the regional
13 superintendent and shall be issued a high school equivalency
14 certificate on the forms provided by the Illinois Community
15 College Board. The regional superintendent shall then certify
16 to the Illinois Community College Board the score of the
17 applicant and such other and additional information that may be
18 required by the Illinois Community College Board. The moneys
19 received therefrom shall be used in the same manner as provided
20 for in this Section.

21 Any applicant who has attained the age of 17 years and
22 maintained residence in the State of Illinois and is not a high
23 school graduate, any person who has enrolled in a youth
24 education program sponsored by the Illinois National Guard, or
25 any person who has successfully completed an alternative
26 education program under Section 2-3.81, Article 13A, or Article

1 13B is eligible to apply for a high school equivalency
2 certificate (if he or she meets the requirements prescribed by
3 the Illinois Community College Board) upon showing evidence
4 that he or she has completed, successfully, high school
5 equivalency testing, administered by the United States Armed
6 Forces Institute, official high school equivalency testing
7 centers established in other states, Veterans' Administration
8 Hospitals, or the office of the State Superintendent of
9 Education for the Illinois State Penitentiary System and the
10 Department of Corrections. Such applicant shall apply to the
11 regional superintendent of the region wherein he or she has
12 maintained residence, and, upon payment of a fee established by
13 the Illinois Community College Board, the regional
14 superintendent shall issue a high school equivalency
15 certificate and immediately thereafter certify to the Illinois
16 Community College Board the score of the applicant and such
17 other and additional information as may be required by the
18 Illinois Community College Board.

19 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, any
20 applicant who has been out of school for at least one year may
21 request the regional superintendent of schools to administer
22 restricted high school equivalency testing upon written
23 request of: the director of a program who certifies to the
24 Chief Examiner of an official high school equivalency testing
25 center that the applicant has completed a program of
26 instruction provided by such agencies as the Job Corps, the

1 Postal Service Academy, or an apprenticeship training program;
2 an employer or program director for purposes of entry into
3 apprenticeship programs; another state's department of
4 education in order to meet regulations established by that
5 department of education; or a post high school educational
6 institution for purposes of admission, the Department of
7 Financial and Professional Regulation for licensing purposes,
8 or the Armed Forces for induction purposes. The regional
9 superintendent shall administer such testing, and the
10 applicant shall be notified in writing that he or she is
11 eligible to receive a high school equivalency certificate upon
12 reaching age 17, provided he or she meets the standards
13 established by the Illinois Community College Board.

14 Any test administered under this Section to an applicant
15 who does not speak and understand English may at the discretion
16 of the administering agency be given and answered in any
17 language in which the test is printed. The regional
18 superintendent of schools may waive any fees required by this
19 Section in case of hardship. The regional superintendent of
20 schools and the Illinois Community College Board shall waive
21 any fees required by this Section for an applicant who meets
22 all of the following criteria:

23 (1) The applicant qualifies as a homeless person,
24 child, or youth as defined in the Education for Homeless
25 Children Act.

26 (2) The applicant has not attained 25 years of age as

1 of the date of the scheduled test.

2 (3) The applicant can verify his or her status as a
3 homeless person, child, or youth. A homeless services
4 provider that is qualified to verify an individual's
5 housing status, as determined by the Illinois Community
6 College Board, and that has knowledge of the applicant's
7 housing status may verify the applicant's status for
8 purposes of this subdivision (3).

9 (4) The applicant has completed a high school
10 equivalency preparation course through an Illinois
11 Community College Board-approved provider.

12 (5) The applicant is taking the test at a testing
13 center operated by a regional superintendent of schools or
14 the Cook County High School Equivalency Office.

15 In counties of over 3,000,000 population, a high school
16 equivalency certificate shall contain the signatures of the
17 Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board and
18 the superintendent, president, or other chief executive
19 officer of the institution where high school equivalency
20 testing instruction occurred and any other signatures
21 authorized by the Illinois Community College Board.

22 The regional superintendent of schools shall furnish the
23 Illinois Community College Board with any information that the
24 Illinois Community College Board requests with regard to
25 testing and certificates under this Section.

26 (Source: P.A. 98-718, eff. 1-1-15; 98-719, eff. 1-1-15; 99-78,

1 eff. 7-20-15.)".