

1 AN ACT with regard to 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 27-23.6 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-23.6 new)

7 Sec. 27-23.6. Anti-bias education.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that there is a
9 significant increase in violence in the schools and that much
10 of that violence is the result of intergroup tensions. The
11 General Assembly further finds that anti-bias education and
12 intergroup conflict resolution are effective methods for
13 preventing violence and lessening tensions in the schools and
14 that these methods are most effective when they are
15 respectful of individuals and their divergent viewpoints and
16 religious beliefs, which are protected by the First Amendment
17 to the Constitution of the United States.

18 (b) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, public
19 elementary and secondary schools may incorporate activities
20 to address intergroup conflict, with the objectives of
21 improving intergroup relations on and beyond the school
22 campus, defusing intergroup tensions, and promoting peaceful
23 resolution of conflict. The activities must be respectful of
24 individuals and their divergent viewpoints and religious
25 beliefs, which are protected by the First Amendment to the
26 Constitution of the United States. Such activities may
27 include, but not be limited to, instruction and teacher
28 training programs.

29 (c) A school board that adopts a policy to incorporate
30 activities to address intergroup conflict as authorized under
31 subsection (b) of this Section shall make information

1 available to the public that describes the manner in which
2 the board has implemented the authority granted to it in this
3 Section. The means for disseminating this information (i)
4 shall include posting the information on the school
5 district's Internet web site, if any, and making the
6 information available, upon request, in district offices, and
7 (ii) may include without limitation incorporating the
8 information in a student handbook and including the
9 information in a district newsletter.

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