

AN ACT concerning schools.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Illinois Finance Authority Act is amended by adding Section 825-100 as follows:

(20 ILCS 3501/825-100 new)

Sec. 825-100. School Wind and Solar Generation Program.

(a) There is created the School Wind and Solar Generation Program to fund wind generation projects and solar generation projects for school districts and community college districts. The Authority may implement and administer this program. Under the program, the Authority may provide to school districts and community college districts that apply, full or partial low-interest loans for, without limitation, engineering studies, feasibility studies, research studies, and construction costs for wind generation projects and solar generation projects. The loan funds, subject to appropriation, shall be paid out of the School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund. All repayments of loans shall be deposited into the School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund.

(b) The Authority may make available information regarding the School Wind and Solar Generation Program to all school districts and community college districts in this State.

(c) The School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund is created as a special fund in the State treasury. The School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund shall consist of any moneys appropriated into the School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund, as well as all repayments of loans made under the School Wind and Solar Generation Program. All interest earned on moneys in the School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund shall be deposited into the Fund. All money in the School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund must be used, subject to appropriation, by the Authority for the purposes of this Section.

(d) The Authority may accept additional funding for the School Wind and Solar Generation Program from the federal government and private donations.

(e) The Authority may adopt any rules necessary to implement this Section.

Section 7. The Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Coal Resources Development Law of 1997 is amended by changing Section 6-5.5 as follows:

(20 ILCS 687/6-5.5)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on December 12, 2015)

Sec. 6-5.5. Renewable energy grants.

(a) Subject to appropriation, the Department may establish and operate a renewable energy grant program to assist public

schools and community colleges with engineering studies and feasibility studies and ~~school districts~~ in the installation, acquisition, construction, and improvement of renewable energy resources ~~in the public schools~~, including without limitation solar energy (such as solar panels), geothermal energy, and wind energy.

(b) Application for a grant under this Section must be in the form and manner established by the Department. ~~The grant shall cover 50% of the cost for which the grant is sought, up to a maximum grant of \$1,000,000, if the applicant school district is able to demonstrate that it has funds to pay the other 50% of the cost.~~ The schools and community colleges ~~school district~~ may accept private funds for their ~~its~~ portion of the cost.

(c) The Department may adopt any rules that are necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this Section.

(Source: P.A. 95-46, eff. 8-10-07.)

Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding Section 5.719 as follows:

(30 ILCS 105/5.719 new)

Sec. 5.719. The School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund.

Section 15. The School Code is amended by changing Sections

10-20.42 and 34-18.36 as follows:

(105 ILCS 5/10-20.42)

Sec. 10-20.42. Wind and solar farms ~~farm~~. A school district may own and operate a wind or solar generation turbine farm, either individually or jointly with a unit of local government, school district, or community college district that is authorized to own and operate a wind or solar generation turbine farm, that directly or indirectly reduces the energy or other operating costs of the school district. The school district may ask for the assistance of any State agency, including without limitation the State Board of Education, the Illinois Power Agency, or the Environmental Protection Agency, in obtaining financing options for a wind or solar generation turbine farm.

(Source: P.A. 95-390, eff. 8-23-07; 95-805, eff. 8-12-08; 95-876, eff. 8-21-08.)

(105 ILCS 5/34-18.36)

Sec. 34-18.36. Wind and solar farms ~~farm~~. The school district may own and operate a wind or solar generation turbine farm, either individually or jointly with a unit of local government, school district, or community college district that is authorized to own and operate a wind or solar generation turbine farm, that directly or indirectly reduces the energy or other operating costs of the school district. The

school district may ask for the assistance of any State agency, including without limitation the State Board of Education, the Illinois Power Agency, or the Environmental Protection Agency, in obtaining financing options for a wind or solar generation turbine farm.

(Source: P.A. 95-390, eff. 8-23-07; 95-805, eff. 8-12-08; 95-876, eff. 8-21-08.)

Section 20. The Public Community College Act is amended by changing Section 3-42.3 as follows:

(110 ILCS 805/3-42.3)

Sec. 3-42.3. Wind and solar farms ~~farm~~. To own and operate a wind or solar generation turbine farm, either individually or jointly with a unit of local government, school district, or community college district that is authorized to own and operate a wind or solar generation turbine farm, that directly or indirectly reduces the energy or other operating costs of the community college district. The board may ask for the assistance of any State agency, including without limitation the State Board, the Illinois Power Agency, or the Environmental Protection Agency, in obtaining financing options for a wind or solar generation turbine farm.

(Source: P.A. 95-390, eff. 8-23-07; 95-805, eff. 8-12-08.)

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