
SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.80 from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.80

Amends the School Code. Provides that a school district that offers a secondary agricultural education program that is eligible for State and federal funding must ensure that, at a minimum, the following are available to its secondary agricultural education students: (1) an instructional sequence of courses approved by the State Board of Education; (2) a State and nationally affiliated FFA chapter that is integral to instruction and is not treated as an extracurricular activity; and (3) a mechanism for ensuring the involvement of all secondary agricultural education students in formal, supervised, agricultural-experience activities and programs.

FISCAL NOTE ACT MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES ACT MAY REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT
AN ACT concerning education.

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

Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section 2-3.80 as follows:

(105 ILCS 5/2-3.80) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.80)

Sec. 2-3.80. (a) The General Assembly recognizes that agriculture is the most basic and singularly important industry in the State, that agriculture is of central importance to the welfare and economic stability of the State, and that the maintenance of this vital industry requires a continued source of trained and qualified individuals for employment in agriculture and agribusiness. The General Assembly hereby declares that it is in the best interests of the people of the State of Illinois that a comprehensive education program in agriculture be created and maintained by the State's public school system in order to ensure an adequate supply of trained and skilled individuals and to ensure appropriate representation of racial and ethnic groups in all phases of the industry. It is the intent of the General Assembly that a State program for agricultural education shall be a part of the curriculum of the public school system K through adult, and made readily available to all school districts which may, at their option, include programs in education in agriculture as a part of the curriculum of that district.

(b) The State Board of Education shall adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions of this Section. The rules and regulations shall not create any new State mandates on school districts as a condition of receiving federal, State, and local funds by those entities. It is in the intent of the General Assembly that, although this Section does not create any new mandates, school districts are
strongly advised to follow the guidelines set forth in this
Section.

(c) The State Superintendent of Education shall assume
responsibility for the administration of the State program
adopted under this Section throughout the public school system
as well as the articulation of the State program to the
requirements and mandates of federally assisted education.
There is currently within the State Board of Education an
agricultural education unit to assist school districts in the
establishment and maintenance of educational programs pursuant
to the provisions of this Section. The staffing of the unit
shall at all times be comprised of an appropriate number of
full-time employees who shall serve as program consultants in
agricultural education and shall be available to provide
assistance to school districts. At least one consultant shall
be responsible for the coordination of the State program, as
Head Consultant. At least one consultant shall be responsible
for the coordination of the activities of student and
agricultural organizations and associations.

(d) A committee of 13 agriculturalists representative of
the various and diverse areas of the agricultural industry in
Illinois shall be established to at least develop a curriculum
and overview the implementation of the Build Illinois through
Quality Agricultural Education plans of the Illinois
Leadership Council for Agricultural Education and to advise the
State Board of Education on vocational agricultural education.
The Committee shall be composed of the following: (6)
agriculturalists representing the Illinois Leadership Council
for Agricultural Education; (2) Secondary Agriculture
Teachers; (1) "Ag In The Classroom" Teacher; (1) Community
College Agriculture Teacher; (1) Adult Agriculture Education
Teacher; (1) University Agriculture Teacher Educator; and (1)
FFA Representative. All members of the Committee shall be
appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of
the Senate. The terms of all members so appointed shall be for
3 years, except that of the members initially appointed, 5
shall be appointed to serve for terms of 1 year, 4 shall be
appointed to serve for terms of 2 years and 4 shall be
appointed to serve for terms of 3 years. All members of the
Committee shall serve until their successors are appointed and
qualified. Vacancies in terms shall be filled by appointment of
the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for the
extent of the unexpired term. The State Board of Education
shall implement a Build Illinois through Quality Agricultural
Education plan following receipt of these recommendations
which shall be made available on or before March 31, 1987.
Recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, the
development of a curriculum and a strategy for the purpose of
establishing a source of trained and qualified individuals in
agriculture, a strategy for articulating the State program in
agricultural education throughout the public school system,
and a consumer education outreach strategy regarding the
importance of agriculture in Illinois. The committee of
agriculturalists shall serve without compensation.

(e) A school district that offers a secondary agricultural
education program that is eligible for State and federal
funding must ensure that, at a minimum, all of the following
are available to its secondary agricultural education
students:

(1) An instructional sequence of courses approved by
the State Board of Education.

(2) A State and nationally affiliated FFA (Future
Farmers of America) chapter that is integral to instruction
and is not treated as an extracurricular activity.

(3) A mechanism for ensuring the involvement of all
secondary agricultural education students in formal,
supervised, agricultural-experience activities and
programs.

(Source: P.A. 84-1452.)