

1 AN ACT regarding 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 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 of the high school level Test of  
14 General Educational Development to qualified persons. Such  
15 centers shall be under the supervision of the regional  
16 superintendent in whose region such centers are located,  
17 subject to the approval of the President of the Illinois  
18 Community College Board ~~State Superintendent of Education~~.

19 An individual is eligible to apply to the regional  
20 superintendent of schools for the region in which he resides if  
21 he is: (a) a person who is 18 years of age or older, has  
22 maintained residence in the State of Illinois and is not a high  
23 school graduate, but whose high school class has graduated; (b)  
24 a member of the armed forces of the United States on active  
25 duty who is 17 years of age or older and who is stationed in  
26 Illinois or is a legal resident of Illinois; (c) a ward of the  
27 Department of Corrections who is 17 years of age or older or an  
28 inmate confined in any branch of the Illinois State  
29 Penitentiary or in a county correctional facility who is 17  
30 years of age or older; (d) a female who is 17 years of age or  
31 older who is unable to attend school because she is either  
32 pregnant or the mother of one or more children; (e) a male 17

1 years of age or older who is unable to attend school because he  
2 is a father of one or more children; (f) a person who is  
3 successfully completing an alternative education program under  
4 Section 2-3.81, Article 13A, or Article 13B; (g) a person who  
5 is enrolled in a youth education program sponsored by the  
6 Illinois National Guard; or (h) a person who is 17 years of age  
7 or older who has been a dropout for a period of at least one  
8 year. For purposes of this Section, residence is that abode  
9 which the applicant considers his home. Applicants may provide  
10 as sufficient proof of such residence a picture identification  
11 card and two pieces of correctly addressed and postmarked mail.  
12 Such regional superintendent shall determine if the applicant  
13 meets statutory and regulatory state standards. If qualified  
14 the applicant shall at the time of such application pay a fee  
15 established by the Illinois Community College Board ~~State Board~~  
16 ~~of Education~~, which fee shall be paid into a special fund under  
17 the control and supervision of the regional superintendent.  
18 Such moneys received by the regional superintendent shall be  
19 used, first, for the expenses incurred in administering and  
20 scoring the examination, and next for other educational  
21 programs that are developed and designed by the regional  
22 superintendent of schools to assist those who successfully  
23 complete the high school level test of General Education  
24 Development in furthering their academic development or their  
25 ability to secure and retain gainful employment, including  
26 programs for the competitive award based on test scores of  
27 college or adult education scholarship grants or similar  
28 educational incentives. Any excess moneys shall be paid into  
29 the institute fund.

30 Any applicant who has achieved the minimum passing  
31 standards as established by the Illinois Community College  
32 Board ~~State Board of Education~~ shall be notified in writing by  
33 the regional superintendent and shall be issued a high school  
34 equivalency certificate on the forms provided by the State  
35 Superintendent of Education. The regional superintendent shall  
36 then certify to the Office of the State Superintendent of

1 Education the score of the applicant and such other and  
2 additional information that may be required by the State  
3 Superintendent of Education. The moneys received therefrom  
4 shall be used in the same manner as provided for in this  
5 Section.

6 Any applicant who has attained the age of 18 years and  
7 maintained residence in the State of Illinois and is not a high  
8 school graduate but whose high school class has graduated or  
9 any ward of the Department of Corrections who has attained the  
10 age of 17 years, any inmate confined in any branch of the  
11 Illinois State Penitentiary or in a county correctional  
12 facility who has attained the age of 17 years, or any member of  
13 the armed forces of the United States on active duty who has  
14 attained the age of 17 years and who is stationed in Illinois  
15 or is a legal resident of Illinois, or any female who has  
16 attained the age of 17 years and is either pregnant or the  
17 mother of one or more children, or any male who has attained  
18 the age of 17 years and is the father of one or more children,  
19 or any person who has successfully completed an alternative  
20 education program under Section 2-3.81, Article 13A, or Article  
21 13B and meets the requirements prescribed by the State Board of  
22 Education, is eligible to apply for a high school equivalency  
23 certificate upon showing evidence that he has completed,  
24 successfully, the high school level General Educational  
25 Development Tests, administered by the United States Armed  
26 Forces Institute, official GED Centers established in other  
27 states, or at Veterans' Administration Hospitals or the office  
28 of the State Superintendent of Education administered for the  
29 Illinois State Penitentiary System and the Department of  
30 Corrections. Such applicant shall apply to the regional  
31 superintendent of the region wherein he has maintained  
32 residence, and upon payment of a fee established by the State  
33 Board of Education the regional superintendent shall issue a  
34 high school equivalency certificate, and immediately  
35 thereafter certify to the State Superintendent of Education the  
36 score of the applicant and such other and additional

1 information as may be required by the State Superintendent of  
2 Education.

3 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, any  
4 applicant who has been out of school for at least one year may  
5 request the regional superintendent of schools to administer  
6 the restricted GED test upon written request of: The director  
7 of a program who certifies to the Chief Examiner of an official  
8 GED center that the applicant has completed a program of  
9 instruction provided by such agencies as the Job Corps, the  
10 Postal Service Academy or apprenticeship training program; an  
11 employer or program director for purposes of entry into  
12 apprenticeship programs; another State Department of Education  
13 in order to meet regulations established by that Department of  
14 Education, a post high school educational institution for  
15 purposes of admission, the Department of Professional  
16 Regulation for licensing purposes, or the Armed Forces for  
17 induction purposes. The regional superintendent shall  
18 administer such test and the applicant shall be notified in  
19 writing that he is eligible to receive the Illinois High School  
20 Equivalency Certificate upon reaching age 18, provided he meets  
21 the standards established by the State Board of Education.

22 Any test administered under this Section to an applicant  
23 who does not speak and understand English may at the discretion  
24 of the administering agency be given and answered in any  
25 language in which the test is printed. The regional  
26 superintendent of schools may waive any fees required by this  
27 Section in case of hardship.

28 In counties of over 3,000,000 population a GED certificate  
29 issued on or after July 1, 1994 shall contain the signatures of  
30 the State Superintendent of Education, the superintendent,  
31 president or other chief executive officer of the institution  
32 where GED instruction occurred and any other signatures  
33 authorized by the State Superintendent of Education.

34 The regional superintendent of schools shall furnish the  
35 Illinois Community College Board with any information that the  
36 Illinois Community College Board requests with regard to

1 testing under this Section.

2 (Source: P.A. 92-42, eff. 1-1-02.)

3 Section 10. The Public Community College Act is amended by  
4 adding Section 2-21 as follows:

5 (110 ILCS 805/2-21 new)

6 Sec. 2-21. High school equivalency testing. On the  
7 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General  
8 Assembly, all powers and duties of the State Board of Education  
9 and State Superintendent of Education with regard to high  
10 school equivalency testing under the School Code shall be  
11 transferred to the Illinois Community College Board. Within a  
12 reasonable period of time after that date, all assets,  
13 liabilities, contracts, property, records, pending business,  
14 and unexpended appropriations of the State Board of Education  
15 with regard to high school equivalency testing shall be  
16 transferred to the Illinois Community College Board. The  
17 Illinois Community College Board may adopt any rules necessary  
18 to carry out its responsibilities under the School Code with  
19 regard to high school equivalency testing. All rules,  
20 standards, and procedures adopted by the State Board of  
21 Education under the School Code with regard to high school  
22 equivalency testing shall continue in effect as the rules,  
23 standards, and procedures of the Illinois Community College  
24 Board, until they are modified by the Illinois Community  
25 College Board.