



Rep. Monique D. Davis

Filed: 3/31/2014

09800HB3945ham001

LRB098 15511 NHT 57528 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 3945

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 3945 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 34-18.43a as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.43a new)

7 Sec. 34-18.43a. Moratorium on school closings,
8 consolidations, turnarounds, and phase-outs.

9 (a) The General Assembly recognizes all of the following:

10 (1) The Illinois Constitution indicates that a
11 "fundamental goal of the People of the State is the
12 educational development of all persons to the limits of
13 their capacities".

14 (2) Quality educational facilities are essential for
15 fostering the maximum educational development of all
16 persons through their educational experience from

1 prekindergarten through high school.

2 (3) The public school is a major institution in
3 communities that offers resources and opportunities for
4 many stakeholders, including not only families with
5 children who seek and deserve a quality education, but also
6 the entire community that seeks educational improvement.

7 (4) The equitable and efficient use of available
8 facilities-related resources among different schools,
9 among racial, ethnic, income, and disability groups, and
10 among various types of schools is essential to maximize the
11 development of quality educational facilities for all
12 children, youth, and adults.

13 (5) The closing or opening of schools, as well as
14 school repairs, school additions, school phase-outs,
15 school consolidations, school turnarounds, and school
16 boundary changes, often have profound impacts on education
17 in a community. These decisions should be carried out only
18 according to clear system-wide criteria and with the
19 genuine involvement of local school councils, parents,
20 educators, and the community in decision making.

21 (6) The General Assembly has previously stated that it
22 intended to make the individual school in the school
23 district the essential unit for educational governance and
24 improvement and to place the primary responsibility for
25 school governance and improvement in the hands of parents,
26 teachers, and community residents at each school. A

1 facility policy must be consistent with these principles.

2 (7) The school district has failed to address the needs
3 of schools placed on academic probation and failed to
4 adhere to the requirements of this Code and established
5 policies regarding the closure, consolidation, turnaround,
6 and phase-out of its schools.

7 (b) Because of the finality of school closings,
8 consolidations, turnarounds, and phase-outs and their
9 wide-reaching effects, there shall be a moratorium on these
10 actions in the school district beginning on the effective date
11 of this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly, subject to
12 any new set of requirements adopted by the General Assembly.
13 During this moratorium period, the district shall establish
14 policies that address and remedy the academic performance of
15 schools in which Illinois Standards Achievement Test scores
16 reflect students performing at or below 75%. These policies
17 must establish clear criteria or processes for establishing
18 criteria for making school facility decisions and include clear
19 criteria for setting priorities with respect to school
20 openings, school closings, school consolidations, school
21 turnarounds, school phase-outs, school construction, school
22 repairs, school modernizations, school boundary changes, and
23 other related school facility decisions, including the
24 encouragement of multiple community uses for school space.

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

1 becoming law.".