

## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2013 and 2014 SB3004

Introduced 2/7/2014, by Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

## SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the School Code with respect to the suspension and expulsion of pupils. Provides for the expulsion of pupils by removing a pupil from a school or educational setting for a period of more than 10 school days for posing a significant threat of imminent serious harm to other pupils or to staff (instead of providing for the expulsion of pupils quilty of gross disobedience or misconduct). Provides for the suspension of pupils by removing a pupil from a school or educational setting for a period of not more than 10 days for a serious act of misconduct (instead of providing for the suspension of pupils quilty of gross disobedience or misconduct); makes related changes. Sets forth limitations on out-of-school suspensions. Requires behavioral support services and alternative educational services to be provided to certain students. Provides that, unless otherwise required by statute for a specific criminal offense, a student may not be arrested or otherwise cited for a criminal offense committed during school hours while on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or school-sanctioned event unless the offense constitutes a felony or the student has committed an identical offense within the preceding 6 months. Requires reports to be made for certain incidents. Provides that students may not be counseled by any school employee to leave school voluntarily in order to avoid formal disciplinary proceedings or because of any other disciplinary concerns. Provides that a student may not be issued a monetary fine or fee as a disciplinary consequence. Provides for charter school and alternative school application.

LRB098 17233 NHT 52326 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES ACT MAY REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT 1 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 Sections
- 5 10-22.6, 13A-11, 27A-5, and 34-19 as follows:
- 6 (105 ILCS 5/10-22.6) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-22.6)
- Sec. 10-22.6. Suspension or expulsion of pupils; school searches.
- 9 (a) To expel pupils by removing a pupil from a school or educational setting for a period of more than 10 school days 10 for posing a significant threat of imminent serious harm to 11 other pupils or to staff, guilty of gross disobedience or 12 misconduct, including gross disobedience or misconduct 13 14 perpetuated by electronic means, and no action shall lie against them for such expulsion. Expulsion shall take place 15 16 only after the parents have been requested to appear at a 17 meeting of the board, or with a hearing officer appointed by it, to discuss their child's behavior. Such request shall be 18 19 made by registered or certified mail and shall state the time, place and purpose of the meeting. The board, or a hearing 20 21 officer appointed by it, at such meeting shall state the reasons for dismissal and the date on which the expulsion is to 22 become effective. If a hearing officer is appointed by the 23

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board he shall report to the board a written summary of the evidence heard at the meeting and the board may take such action thereon as it finds appropriate. An expelled pupil may be immediately transferred to an alternative program in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of this Code. A pupil must not be denied transfer because of the expulsion, except in cases in which such transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative program.

(b) To suspend or by policy to authorize the superintendent of the district or the principal, assistant principal, or dean of students of any school to suspend pupils by removing a pupil from a school or educational setting for a period of not more than 10 school days for a serious act of misconduct quilty of gross disobedience or misconduct, or to suspend pupils quilty of gross disobedience or misconduct on the school bus from riding the school bus for a serious act of misconduct on the school bus, and no action shall lie against them for such suspensions suspension. The board may by policy authorize superintendent of the district or the principal, assistant principal, or dean of students of any school to suspend pupils guilty of such acts for a period not to exceed 10 school days. If a pupil is suspended for a serious act of due to gross disobedience or misconduct on a school bus, the board may suspend the pupil in excess of 10 school days for safety reasons. Any suspension shall be reported immediately to the parents or quardian of such pupil along with a full statement

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of the reasons for such suspension and a notice of their right to a review. The school board must be given a summary of the notice, including the reason for the suspension and the suspension length. Upon request of the parents or quardian the school board or a hearing officer appointed by it shall review such action of the superintendent or principal, assistant principal, or dean of students. At such review the parents or quardian of the pupil may appear and discuss the suspension with the board or its hearing officer. If a hearing officer is appointed by the board he shall report to the board a written summary of the evidence heard at the meeting. After its hearing or upon receipt of the written report of its hearing officer, the board may take such action as it finds appropriate. A pupil who is suspended in excess of 20 school days may be immediately transferred to an alternative program in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of this Code. A pupil must not be denied transfer because of the suspension, except in cases in which such transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety students or staff in the alternative program.

- (c) The Department of Human Services shall be invited to send a representative to consult with the board at such meeting whenever there is evidence that mental illness may be the cause for expulsion or suspension.
- (d) The board may expel a student for a definite period of time not to exceed 2 calendar years, as determined on a case by case basis. A student who is determined to have brought one of

- the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year:
  - (1) A firearm. For the purposes of this Section, "firearm" means any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012. The expulsion period under this subdivision (1) may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.
  - (2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including "look alikes" of any firearm as defined in subdivision (1) of this subsection (d). The expulsion requirement under this subdivision (2) may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

Expulsion or suspension shall be construed in a manner consistent with the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

A student who is subject to suspension or expulsion as provided in this Section may be eligible for a transfer to an

alternative school program in accordance with Article 13A of the School Code.

Out-of-school suspensions of up to 3 school days may be used only when necessary to protect the safety of other students or staff within the school or to avoid a significant disruption of the educational process. A student may not be removed from school for longer than 3 school days or removed to an alternative setting for disciplinary reasons unless it is necessary to avoid a significant threat of imminent serious harm to other students or to staff. All school exclusions must be limited in duration to the greatest extent practicable.

The provisions of this subsection (d) apply in all school districts, including special charter districts and districts organized under Article 34.

(d-5) The board may suspend or by regulation authorize the superintendent of the district or the principal, assistant principal, or dean of students of any school to suspend a student for a period not to exceed 10 school days or may expel a student for a definite period of time not to exceed 2 calendar years, as determined on a case by case basis, if (i) that student has been determined to have made an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel, (ii) the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the

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school grounds at the time the threat was made, and (iii) the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school. The provisions of this subsection (d-5) apply in all school districts, including special charter districts and districts organized under Article 34 of this Code.

(e) To maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities may inspect and search places and areas such as lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school, as well as personal effects left in those places and areas by students, without notice to or the consent of the student, and without a search warrant. As a matter of public policy, the General Assembly finds that students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places and areas or in their personal effects left in these places and areas. School authorities may request the assistance of law enforcement officials for the purpose of conducting inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs. If a search conducted in accordance with this Section produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either

- the law, local ordinance, or the school's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. School authorities may also turn over such evidence to law enforcement authorities. The provisions of this subsection (e) apply in all school districts, including special charter districts and districts organized under Article 34.
  - (f) Suspension or expulsion may include suspension or expulsion from school and all school activities and a prohibition from being present on school grounds.
  - (g) A school district may adopt a policy providing that if a student is suspended or expelled for any reason from any public or private school in this or any other state, the student must complete the entire term of the suspension or expulsion in an alternative school program under Article 13A of this Code or an alternative learning opportunities program under Article 13B of this Code before being admitted into the school district if there is no threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative program. This subsection (g) applies to all school districts, including special charter districts and districts organized under Article 34 of this Code.
  - (h) Students who are suspended out of school for longer than 3 school days or removed to an alternative setting for disciplinary reasons must be provided with behavioral support services, as well alternative educational services, to promote

- 2 subsection (h) applies to all school districts, including

their successful return to their regular school.

- 3 special charter districts and districts organized under
- 4 Article 34 of this Code.
- 5 (i) Unless otherwise required by statute for a specific
- 6 <u>criminal offense</u>, a student may not be arrested or otherwise
- 7 <u>cited for a criminal offense committed during school hours</u>
- 8 while on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school
- 9 <u>activity or school-sanctioned event unless the offense</u>
- 10 constitutes a felony in one of the classes defined in the
- 11 Criminal Code of 2012 or the student has committed an identical
- offense within the preceding 6 months while on school grounds,
- 13 <u>in a school vehicle</u>, or at a school activity or
- school-sanctioned event.
- Nothing in this subsection (i) shall require the referral
- of a student suspected of committing a felony offense to a law
- 17 enforcement officer or law enforcement agency. School
- 18 employees and officials retain their authority and discretion
- 19 under existing law to address a student's behavior through the
- 20 existing school discipline structure as modified by this
- amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly.
- Nothing in this subsection (i) limits the rights and duties
- of teachers, school administrators, other school district
- 24 employees, and law enforcement officers from reporting and
- 25 responding to criminal conduct by any individual who is not a
- student under the school district's jurisdiction.

- This subsection (i) applies to all school districts,
- 2 including special charter districts and districts organized
- 3 under Article 34 of this Code.
- 4 (j) All incidents resulting in an out-of-school suspension
- 5 longer than 3 days, removal to an alternative setting, arrest,
- 6 or criminal citation must be documented in a written report
- 7 that includes a detailed description of the behavior at issue
- 8 and an explanation of why the actions taken were necessary.
- 9 These individual reports must be immediately provided to the
- 10 parent or quardian of the student and must be complied by each
- school district into an annual summary report that is available
- for public review. This subsection (j) applies to all school
- districts, including special charter districts and districts
- organized under Article 34 of this Code.
- (k) Students may not be counseled by any school employee to
- 16 leave school voluntarily in order to avoid formal disciplinary
- 17 proceedings or because of any other disciplinary concerns. A
- 18 student may not be issued a monetary fine or fee as a
- 19 disciplinary consequence.
- 20 (Source: P.A. 96-633, eff. 8-24-09; 96-998, eff. 7-2-10;
- 21 97-340, eff. 1-1-12; 97-495, eff. 1-1-12; 97-813, eff. 7-13-12;
- 22 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)
- 23 (105 ILCS 5/13A-11)
- Sec. 13A-11. Chicago public schools.
- 25 (a) The Chicago Board of Education may establish

- 1 alternative schools within Chicago and may contract with third
- 2 parties for services otherwise performed by employees,
- 3 including those in a bargaining unit, in accordance with
- 4 Sections 34-8.1, 34-18, and 34-49.
- 5 (b) Alternative schools operated by third parties within
- 6 Chicago shall be exempt from all provisions of this the School
- 7 Code, except provisions concerning:
- 8 (1) student <del>Student</del> civil rights;
- 9 (2) <u>staff</u> civil rights;
- 10 (3) <u>health</u> Health and safety;
- 11 (4) performance <del>Performance</del> and financial audits;
- 12 (5) the The Illinois Goals Assessment Program;
- 13 (6) Chicago learning outcomes;
- 14 (7) Sections 2-3.25a through 2-3.25j of this the School
- 15 Code;
- 16 (8) the <del>The</del> Inspector General; <del>and</del>
- 17 (9) Section 34-2.4b of this the School Code; and.
- 18 (10) the discipline of students under Sections 10-22.6
- and 34-19 of this Code.
- 20 (Source: P.A. 89-383, eff. 8-18-95; 89-636, eff. 8-9-96.)
- 21 (105 ILCS 5/27A-5)
- Sec. 27A-5. Charter school; legal entity; requirements.
- 23 (a) A charter school shall be a public, nonsectarian,
- 24 nonreligious, non-home based, and non-profit school. A charter
- 25 school shall be organized and operated as a nonprofit

- 1 corporation or other discrete, legal, nonprofit entity 2 authorized under the laws of the State of Illinois.
  - (b) A charter school may be established under this Article by creating a new school or by converting an existing public school or attendance center to charter school status. Beginning on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly, in all new applications submitted to the State Board or a local school board to establish a charter school in a city having a population exceeding 500,000, operation of the charter school shall be limited to one campus. The changes made to this Section by this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly do not apply to charter schools existing or approved on or before the effective date of this amendatory Act.
  - (b-5) In this subsection (b-5), "virtual-schooling" means the teaching of courses through online methods with online instructors, rather than the instructor and student being at the same physical location. "Virtual-schooling" includes without limitation instruction provided by full-time, online virtual schools.
  - From April 1, 2013 through April 1, 2014, there is a moratorium on the establishment of charter schools with virtual-schooling components in school districts other than a school district organized under Article 34 of this Code. This moratorium does not apply to a charter school with virtual-schooling components existing or approved prior to

- 1 April 1, 2013 or to the renewal of the charter of a charter
- 2 school with virtual-schooling components already approved
- 3 prior to April 1, 2013.
- 4 On or before March 1, 2014, the Commission shall submit to
- 5 the General Assembly a report on the effect of
- 6 virtual-schooling, including without limitation the effect on
- 7 student performance, the costs associated with
- 8 virtual-schooling, and issues with oversight. The report shall
- 9 include policy recommendations for virtual-schooling.
- 10 (c) A charter school shall be administered and governed by
- its board of directors or other governing body in the manner
- 12 provided in its charter. The governing body of a charter school
- shall be subject to the Freedom of Information Act and the Open
- 14 Meetings Act.
- 15 (d) A charter school shall comply with all applicable
- 16 health and safety requirements applicable to public schools
- 17 under the laws of the State of Illinois.
- 18 (e) Except as otherwise provided in the School Code, a
- 19 charter school shall not charge tuition; provided that a
- 20 charter school may charge reasonable fees for textbooks,
- 21 instructional materials, and student activities.
- 22 (f) A charter school shall be responsible for the
- 23 management and operation of its fiscal affairs including, but
- not limited to, the preparation of its budget. An audit of each
- 25 charter school's finances shall be conducted annually by an
- 26 outside, independent contractor retained by the charter

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Internal Revenue Service.

- school. Annually, by December 1, every charter school must submit to the State Board a copy of its audit and a copy of the Form 990 the charter school filed that year with the federal
  - (g) A charter school shall comply with all provisions of this Article, the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, and its charter. A charter school is exempt from all other State laws and regulations in this the School Code governing public schools and local school board policies, except the following:
    - (1) Sections 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 of this the School Code regarding criminal history records checks and checks of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database of applicants for employment;
    - (2) Sections 10-22.6, 24-24, 34-19, and 34-84A of this the School Code regarding discipline of students;
    - (3) <u>the</u> The Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act;
    - (4) Section 108.75 of the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 regarding indemnification of officers, directors, employees, and agents;
      - (5) the The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act;
      - (6) the The Illinois School Student Records Act;
    - (7) Section 10-17a of this the School Code regarding school report cards; and
      - (8) the The P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System

1 Act.

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2 The change made by Public Act 96-104 to this subsection (g) is declaratory of existing law.

(h) A charter school may negotiate and contract with a school district, the governing body of a State college or university or public community college, or any other public or for-profit or nonprofit private entity for: (i) the use of a school building and grounds or any other real property or facilities that the charter school desires to use or convert for use as a charter school site, (ii) the operation and maintenance thereof, and (iii) the provision of any service, activity, or undertaking that the charter school is required to perform in order to carry out the terms of its charter. However, a charter school that is established on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly and that operates in a city having a population exceeding 500,000 may not contract with a for-profit entity to manage or operate the school during the period that commences on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly and concludes at the end of the 2004-2005 school year. Except as provided in subsection (i) of this Section, a school district may charge a charter school reasonable rent for the use of the district's buildings, grounds, and facilities. Any services for which a charter school contracts with a school district shall be provided by the district at cost. Any services for which a charter school

- 1 contracts with a local school board or with the governing body
- of a State college or university or public community college
- 3 shall be provided by the public entity at cost.
- 4 (i) In no event shall a charter school that is established
- 5 by converting an existing school or attendance center to
- 6 charter school status be required to pay rent for space that is
- 7 deemed available, as negotiated and provided in the charter
- 8 agreement, in school district facilities. However, all other
- 9 costs for the operation and maintenance of school district
- 10 facilities that are used by the charter school shall be subject
- 11 to negotiation between the charter school and the local school
- board and shall be set forth in the charter.
- 13 (j) A charter school may limit student enrollment by age or
- 14 grade level.
- 15 (k) If the charter school is approved by the Commission,
- 16 then the Commission charter school is its own local education
- 17 agency.
- 18 (Source: P.A. 97-152, eff. 7-20-11; 97-154, eff. 1-1-12;
- 19 97-813, eff. 7-13-12; 98-16, eff. 5-24-13.)
- 20 (105 ILCS 5/34-19) (from Ch. 122, par. 34-19)
- Sec. 34-19. By-laws, rules and regulations; business
- 22 transacted at regular meetings; voting; records. The board
- 23 shall, subject to the limitations in this Article, establish
- by-laws, rules and regulations, which shall have the force of
- ordinances, for the proper maintenance of a uniform system of

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discipline for both employees and pupils, and for the entire management of the schools, and may fix the school age of pupils, the minimum of which in kindergartens shall not be under 4 years, except that, based upon an assessment of the child's readiness, children who have attended a non-public preschool and continued their education at that school through kindergarten, were taught in kindergarten by an appropriately certified teacher, and will attain the age of 6 years on or before December 31 of the year of the 2009-2010 school term and each school term thereafter may attend first grade upon commencement of such term, and in grade schools shall not be under 6 years. It may expel a pupil by removing the pupil from a school or educational setting for a period of more than 10 school days for posing a significant threat of imminent serious harm to other pupils or to staff, suspend a pupil by removing the pupil from a school or educational setting for a period of not more than 10 school days for a serious act of misconduct, or, subject to the limitations of all policies established or adopted under Section 14-8.05, otherwise discipline any pupil found guilty of violating gross disobedience, misconduct or other violation of the by-laws, rules, and regulations, including gross disobedience or misconduct perpetuated by electronic means. Students may not be counseled by any school employee to leave school voluntarily in order to avoid formal disciplinary proceedings or because of any other disciplinary concerns. A student may not be issued a monetary fine or fee as

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expelled a disciplinary consequence. An pupil immediately transferred to an alternative program in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of this Code. A pupil must not be denied transfer because of the expulsion, except in cases in which such transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative program. A pupil who is suspended in excess of 20 school days may be immediately transferred to an alternative program in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of this Code. A pupil must not be denied transfer because of the suspension, except in cases such transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative program. The bylaws, rules and regulations of the board shall be enacted, money shall be appropriated or expended, salaries shall be fixed or changed, textbooks, electronic textbooks, and courses instruction shall be adopted or changed only at the regular meetings of the board and by a vote of a majority of the full membership of the board; provided that notwithstanding any other provision of this Article or the School Code, neither the board or any local school council may purchase any textbook for use in any public school of the district from any textbook publisher that fails to furnish any computer diskettes as required under Section 28-21. Funds appropriated for textbook purchases must be available for electronic textbook purchases and the technological equipment necessary to gain access to and use electronic textbooks at the local school council's

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discretion. The board shall be further encouraged to provide opportunities for public hearing and testimony before the adoption of bylaws, rules and regulations. all Upon propositions requiring for their adoption at least a majority of all the members of the board the yeas and nays shall be taken and reported. The by-laws, rules and regulations of the board shall not be repealed, amended or added to, except by a vote of 2/3 of the full membership of the board. The board shall keep a record of all its proceedings. Such records and all by-laws, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, may be proved by a copy thereof certified to be such by the secretary of the board, but if they are printed in book or pamphlet form which are purported to be published by authority of the board they need not be otherwise published and the book or pamphlet shall be received as evidence, without further proof, of the records, by-laws, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, as of the dates thereof as shown in such book or pamphlet, in all courts and places where judicial proceedings are had.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Article or in the School Code, the board may delegate to the general superintendent or to the attorney the authorities granted to the board in the School Code, provided such delegation and appropriate oversight procedures are made pursuant to board by-laws, rules and regulations, adopted as herein provided, except that the board may not delegate its authorities and responsibilities regarding (1) budget approval obligations;

- 1 (2) rule-making functions; (3) desegregation obligations; (4)
- 2 real estate acquisition, sale or lease in excess of 10 years as
- 3 provided in Section 34-21; (5) the levy of taxes; or (6) any
- 4 mandates imposed upon the board by "An Act in relation to
- 5 school reform in cities over 500,000, amending Acts herein
- 6 named", approved December 12, 1988 (P.A. 85-1418).
- 7 (Source: P.A. 96-864, eff. 1-21-10; 96-1403, eff. 7-29-10;
- 8 97-340, eff. 1-1-12; 97-495, eff. 1-1-12; 97-813, eff.
- 9 7-13-12.)

6 105 ILCS 5/34-19 from Ch. 122, par. 34-19

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