

**HB1118**



**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2025 and 2026**

**HB1118**

Introduced 1/9/2025, by Rep. Regan Deering

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

105 ILCS 5/21B-45

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Allows a lapsed Professional Educator License to be immediately reinstated upon payment to the State Board of Education by the applicant of the lesser of a \$50 penalty or a \$10 penalty for each year the license has lapsed. Effective immediately.

LRB104 04491 LNS 14518 b

**A BILL FOR**

1           AN ACT concerning 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           21B-45 as follows:

6           (105 ILCS 5/21B-45)

7           Sec. 21B-45. Professional Educator License renewal.

8           (a) Individuals holding a Professional Educator License  
9           are required to complete the licensure renewal requirements as  
10           specified in this Section, unless otherwise provided in this  
11           Code.

12           Individuals holding a Professional Educator License shall  
13           meet the renewal requirements set forth in this Section,  
14           unless otherwise provided in this Code. If an individual holds  
15           a license endorsed in more than one area that has different  
16           renewal requirements, that individual shall follow the renewal  
17           requirements for the position for which he or she spends the  
18           majority of his or her time working.

19           (b) All Professional Educator Licenses not renewed as  
20           provided in this Section shall lapse on September 1 of that  
21           year. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Section, if  
22           a license holder's electronic mail address is available, the  
23           State Board of Education shall send him or her notification

1 electronically that his or her license will lapse if not  
2 renewed, to be sent no more than 6 months prior to the license  
3 lapsing. Lapsed licenses may be immediately reinstated upon  
4 (i) payment to the State Board of Education by the applicant of  
5 the lesser of a \$50 penalty or a \$10 penalty for each year the  
6 license has lapsed or (ii) the demonstration of proficiency by  
7 completing 9 semester hours of coursework from a regionally  
8 accredited institution of higher education in the content area  
9 that most aligns with one or more of the educator's  
10 endorsement areas. Any and all back fees, including without  
11 limitation registration fees owed from the time of expiration  
12 of the license until the date of reinstatement, shall be paid  
13 and kept in accordance with the provisions in Article 3 of this  
14 Code concerning an institute fund and the provisions in  
15 Article 21B of this Code concerning fees and requirements for  
16 registration. Licenses not registered in accordance with  
17 Section 21B-40 of this Code shall lapse after a period of 6  
18 months from the expiration of the last year of registration or  
19 on January 1 of the fiscal year following initial issuance of  
20 the license. An unregistered license is invalid after  
21 September 1 for employment and performance of services in an  
22 Illinois public or State-operated school or cooperative and in  
23 a charter school. Any license or endorsement may be  
24 voluntarily surrendered by the license holder. A voluntarily  
25 surrendered license shall be treated as a revoked license. An  
26 Educator License with Stipulations with only a

1 paraprofessional endorsement does not lapse.

2 (c) From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, in order to  
3 satisfy the requirements for licensure renewal provided for in  
4 this Section, each professional educator licensee with an  
5 administrative endorsement who is working in a position  
6 requiring such endorsement shall complete one Illinois  
7 Administrators' Academy course, as described in Article 2 of  
8 this Code, per fiscal year.

9 (c-5) All licenses issued by the State Board of Education  
10 under this Article that expire on June 30, 2020 and have not  
11 been renewed by the end of the 2020 renewal period shall be  
12 extended for one year and shall expire on June 30, 2021.

13 (d) Beginning July 1, 2014, in order to satisfy the  
14 requirements for licensure renewal provided for in this  
15 Section, each professional educator licensee may create a  
16 professional development plan each year. The plan shall  
17 address one or more of the endorsements that are required of  
18 his or her educator position if the licensee is employed and  
19 performing services in an Illinois public or State-operated  
20 school or cooperative. If the licensee is employed in a  
21 charter school, the plan shall address that endorsement or  
22 those endorsements most closely related to his or her educator  
23 position. Licensees employed and performing services in any  
24 other Illinois schools may participate in the renewal  
25 requirements by adhering to the same process.

26 Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the

1 licensee's professional development activities shall align  
2 with one or more of the following criteria:

3 (1) activities are of a type that engages participants  
4 over a sustained period of time allowing for analysis,  
5 discovery, and application as they relate to student  
6 learning, social or emotional achievement, or well-being;

7 (2) professional development aligns to the licensee's  
8 performance;

9 (3) outcomes for the activities must relate to student  
10 growth or district improvement;

11 (4) activities align to State-approved standards; and

12 (5) higher education coursework.

13 (e) For each renewal cycle, each professional educator  
14 licensee shall engage in professional development activities.  
15 Prior to renewal, the licensee shall enter electronically into  
16 the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) the name,  
17 date, and location of the activity, the number of professional  
18 development hours, and the provider's name. The following  
19 provisions shall apply concerning professional development  
20 activities:

21 (1) Each licensee shall complete a total of 120 hours  
22 of professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in  
23 order to renew the license, except as otherwise provided  
24 in this Section.

25 (2) Beginning with his or her first full 5-year cycle,  
26 any licensee with an administrative endorsement who is not

1       working in a position requiring such endorsement is not  
2       required to complete Illinois Administrators' Academy  
3       courses, as described in Article 2 of this Code. Such  
4       licensees must complete one Illinois Administrators'  
5       Academy course within one year after returning to a  
6       position that requires the administrative endorsement.

7               (3) Any licensee with an administrative endorsement  
8       who is working in a position requiring such endorsement or  
9       an individual with a Teacher Leader endorsement serving in  
10      an administrative capacity at least 50% of the day shall  
11      complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as  
12      described in Article 2 of this Code, each fiscal year in  
13      addition to 100 hours of professional development per  
14      5-year renewal cycle in accordance with this Code.  
15      However, for the 2021-2022 school year only, a licensee  
16      under this paragraph (3) is not required to complete an  
17      Illinois Administrators' Academy course.

18               (4) Any licensee holding a current National Board for  
19       Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) master teacher  
20       designation shall complete a total of 60 hours of  
21       professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in order  
22       to renew the license.

23               (5) Licensees working in a position that does not  
24       require educator licensure or working in a position for  
25       less than 50% for any particular year are considered to be  
26       exempt and shall be required to pay only the registration

1       fee in order to renew and maintain the validity of the  
2       license.

3               (6) Licensees who are retired and qualify for benefits  
4       from a State of Illinois retirement system shall be listed  
5       as retired, and the license shall be maintained in retired  
6       status. For any renewal cycle in which a licensee retires  
7       during the renewal cycle, the licensee must complete  
8       professional development activities on a prorated basis  
9       depending on the number of years during the renewal cycle  
10      the educator held an active license. If a licensee retires  
11      during a renewal cycle, the license status must be updated  
12      using ELIS indicating that the licensee wishes to maintain  
13      the license in retired status and the licensee must show  
14      proof of completion of professional development activities  
15      on a prorated basis for all years of that renewal cycle for  
16      which the license was active. An individual with a license  
17      in retired status shall not be required to complete  
18      professional development activities until returning to a  
19      position that requires educator licensure. Upon returning  
20      to work in a position that requires the Professional  
21      Educator License, the license status shall immediately be  
22      updated using ELIS and the licensee shall complete renewal  
23      requirements for that year. A retired teacher, even if  
24      returning to a position that requires educator licensure,  
25      shall not be required to pay registration fees. A license  
26      in retired status cannot lapse. Beginning on January 6,

1       2017 (the effective date of Public Act 99-920) through  
2 December 31, 2017, any licensee who has retired and whose  
3 license has lapsed for failure to renew as provided in  
4 this Section may reinstate that license and maintain it in  
5 retired status upon providing proof to the State Board of  
6 Education using ELIS that the licensee is retired and is  
7 not working in a position that requires a Professional  
8 Educator License.

9               (7) For any renewal cycle in which professional  
10 development hours were required, but not fulfilled, the  
11 licensee shall complete any missed hours to total the  
12 minimum professional development hours required in this  
13 Section prior to September 1 of that year. Professional  
14 development hours used to fulfill the minimum required  
15 hours for a renewal cycle may be used for only one renewal  
16 cycle. For any fiscal year or renewal cycle in which an  
17 Illinois Administrators' Academy course was required but  
18 not completed, the licensee shall complete any missed  
19 Illinois Administrators' Academy courses prior to  
20 September 1 of that year. The licensee may complete all  
21 deficient hours and Illinois Administrators' Academy  
22 courses while continuing to work in a position that  
23 requires that license until September 1 of that year.

24               (8) Any licensee who has not fulfilled the  
25 professional development renewal requirements set forth in  
26 this Section at the end of any 5-year renewal cycle is

1       ineligible to register his or her license and may submit  
2       an appeal to the State Superintendent of Education for  
3       reinstatement of the license.

4               (9) If professional development opportunities were  
5       unavailable to a licensee, proof that opportunities were  
6       unavailable and request for an extension of time beyond  
7       August 31 to complete the renewal requirements may be  
8       submitted from April 1 through June 30 of that year to the  
9       State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. If an  
10      extension is approved, the license shall remain valid  
11      during the extension period.

12               (10) Individuals who hold exempt licenses prior to  
13       December 27, 2013 (the effective date of Public Act  
14       98-610) shall commence the annual renewal process with the  
15       first scheduled registration due after December 27, 2013  
16       (the effective date of Public Act 98-610).

17               (11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
18       subsection (e), if a licensee earns more than the required  
19       number of professional development hours during a renewal  
20       cycle, then the licensee may carry over any hours earned  
21       from April 1 through June 30 of the last year of the  
22       renewal cycle. Any hours carried over in this manner must  
23       be applied to the next renewal cycle. Illinois  
24       Administrators' Academy courses or hours earned in those  
25       courses may not be carried over.

26               (e-5) The number of professional development hours

1 required under subsection (e) is reduced by 20% for any  
2 renewal cycle that includes the 2021-2022 school year.

3 (f) At the time of renewal, each licensee shall respond to  
4 the required questions under penalty of perjury.

5 (f-5) The State Board of Education shall conduct random  
6 audits of licensees to verify a licensee's fulfillment of the  
7 professional development hours required under this Section.  
8 Upon completion of a random audit, if it is determined by the  
9 State Board of Education that the licensee did not complete  
10 the required number of professional development hours or did  
11 not provide sufficient proof of completion, the licensee shall  
12 be notified that his or her license has lapsed. A license that  
13 has lapsed under this subsection may be reinstated as provided  
14 in subsection (b).

15 (g) The following entities shall be designated as approved  
16 to provide professional development activities for the renewal  
17 of Professional Educator Licenses:

18 (1) The State Board of Education.

19 (2) Regional offices of education and intermediate  
20 service centers.

21 (3) Illinois professional associations representing  
22 the following groups that are approved by the State  
23 Superintendent of Education:

24 (A) school administrators;

25 (B) principals;

26 (C) school business officials;

(D) teachers, including special education teachers;

(E) school boards;

(F) school districts;

(G) parents; and

(H) school service personnel.

(4) Regionally accredited institutions of higher education that offer Illinois-approved educator preparation programs and public community colleges subject to the Public Community College Act.

(5) Illinois public school districts, charter schools authorized under Article 27A of this Code, and joint educational programs authorized under Article 10 of this Code for the purposes of providing career and technical education or special education services.

(6) A not-for-profit organization that, as of December 31, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act 98-1147), has had or has a grant from or a contract with the State Board of Education to provide professional development services in the area of English Learning to Illinois school districts, teachers, or administrators.

(7) State agencies, State boards, and State commissions.

(8) Museums as defined in Section 10 of the Museum Disposition of Property Act.

(h) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this

1 Section shall make available professional development  
2 opportunities that satisfy at least one of the following:

3 (1) increase the knowledge and skills of school and  
4 district leaders who guide continuous professional  
5 development;

6 (2) improve the learning of students;

7 (3) organize adults into learning communities whose  
8 goals are aligned with those of the school and district;

9 (4) deepen educator's content knowledge;

10 (5) provide educators with research-based  
11 instructional strategies to assist students in meeting  
12 rigorous academic standards;

13 (6) prepare educators to appropriately use various  
14 types of classroom assessments;

15 (7) use learning strategies appropriate to the  
16 intended goals;

17 (8) provide educators with the knowledge and skills to  
18 collaborate;

19 (9) prepare educators to apply research to decision  
20 making;

21 (10) provide educators with training on inclusive  
22 practices in the classroom that examines instructional and  
23 behavioral strategies that improve academic and  
24 social-emotional outcomes for all students, with or  
25 without disabilities, in a general education setting; or

26 (11) beginning on July 1, 2022, provide educators with

1        training on the physical and mental health needs of  
2        students, student safety, educator ethics, professional  
3        conduct, and other topics that address the well-being of  
4        students and improve the academic and social-emotional  
5        outcomes of students.

6                (i) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this  
7        Section shall do the following:

8                        (1) align professional development activities to the  
9        State-approved national standards for professional  
10        learning;

11                        (2) meet the professional development criteria for  
12        Illinois licensure renewal;

13                        (3) produce a rationale for the activity that explains  
14        how it aligns to State standards and identify the  
15        assessment for determining the expected impact on student  
16        learning or school improvement;

17                        (4) maintain original documentation for completion of  
18        activities;

19                        (5) provide license holders with evidence of  
20        completion of activities;

21                        (6) request an Illinois Educator Identification Number  
22        (IEIN) for each educator during each professional  
23        development activity; and

24                        (7) beginning on July 1, 2019, register annually with  
25        the State Board of Education prior to offering any  
26        professional development opportunities in the current

1                   fiscal year.

2                   (j) The State Board of Education shall conduct annual  
3 audits of a subset of approved providers, except for school  
4 districts, which shall be audited by regional offices of  
5 education and intermediate service centers. The State Board of  
6 Education shall ensure that each approved provider, except for  
7 a school district, is audited at least once every 5 years. The  
8 State Board of Education may conduct more frequent audits of  
9 providers if evidence suggests the requirements of this  
10 Section or administrative rules are not being met.

11                   (1) (Blank).

12                   (2) Approved providers shall comply with the  
13 requirements in subsections (h) and (i) of this Section by  
14 annually submitting data to the State Board of Education  
15 demonstrating how the professional development activities  
16 impacted one or more of the following:

17                   (A) educator and student growth in regards to  
18 content knowledge or skills, or both;

19                   (B) educator and student social and emotional  
20 growth; or

21                   (C) alignment to district or school improvement  
22 plans.

23                   (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review  
24 the data collected by the State Board of Education,  
25 regional offices of education, and intermediate service  
26 centers in audits conducted under this subsection (j) to

1       determine if the approved provider has met the criteria  
2       and should continue to be an approved provider or if  
3       further action should be taken as provided in rules.

4       (k) Registration fees shall be paid for the next renewal  
5       cycle between April 1 and June 30 in the last year of each  
6       5-year renewal cycle using ELIS. If all required professional  
7       development hours for the renewal cycle have been completed  
8       and entered by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the  
9       registration fees for the next cycle using a form of credit or  
10      debit card.

11      (l) Any professional educator licensee endorsed for school  
12      support personnel who is employed and performing services in  
13      Illinois public schools and who holds an active and current  
14      professional license issued by the Department of Financial and  
15      Professional Regulation or a national certification board, as  
16      approved by the State Board of Education, related to the  
17      endorsement areas on the Professional Educator License shall  
18      be deemed to have satisfied the continuing professional  
19      development requirements provided for in this Section. Such  
20      individuals shall be required to pay only registration fees to  
21      renew the Professional Educator License. An individual who  
22      does not hold a license issued by the Department of Financial  
23      and Professional Regulation shall complete professional  
24      development requirements for the renewal of a Professional  
25      Educator License provided for in this Section.

26      (m) Appeals to the State Educator Preparation and

1 Licensure Board must be made within 30 days after receipt of  
2 notice from the State Superintendent of Education that a  
3 license will not be renewed based upon failure to complete the  
4 requirements of this Section. A licensee may appeal that  
5 decision to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board  
6 in a manner prescribed by rule.

7 (1) Each appeal shall state the reasons why the State  
8 Superintendent's decision should be reversed and shall be  
9 sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the  
10 State Board of Education.

11 (2) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board  
12 shall review each appeal regarding renewal of a license  
13 within 90 days after receiving the appeal in order to  
14 determine whether the licensee has met the requirements of  
15 this Section. The State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
16 Board may hold an appeal hearing or may make its  
17 determination based upon the record of review, which shall  
18 consist of the following:

19 (A) the regional superintendent of education's  
20 rationale for recommending nonrenewal of the license,  
21 if applicable;

22 (B) any evidence submitted to the State  
23 Superintendent along with the individual's electronic  
24 statement of assurance for renewal; and

25 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for  
26 nonrenewal of the license.

(3) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board shall notify the licensee of its decision regarding license renewal by certified mail, return receipt requested, no later than 30 days after reaching a decision. Upon receipt of notification of renewal, the licensee, using ELIS, shall pay the applicable registration fee for the next cycle using a form of credit or debit card.

(n) The State Board of Education may adopt rules as may be necessary to implement this Section.

(Source: P.A. 102-676, eff. 12-3-21; 102-710, eff. 4-27-22; 102-730, eff. 5-6-22; 102-852, eff. 5-13-22; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-780, eff. 8-2-24.)

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