

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 1. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

5                   (1) Licensed school librarians help students acquire  
6                   unique skills not taught in the classroom and information  
7                   and technology skills that are essential for students.

8                   (2) Academic research provides significant evidence  
9                   indicating the value added to students' academic  
10                  development by the presence of a strong school library  
11                  program led by a licensed school librarian.

12                  (3) The presence of full-time licensed school  
13                  librarians and appropriate support staff who implement a  
14                  quality, school-integrated library services program is  
15                  directly related to student educational gains.

16                  (4) Quality school library programs staffed by  
17                  licensed school librarians help close the achievement gap  
18                  of students who come from economically disadvantaged  
19                  backgrounds.

20                  (5) Curtailment of school library instructional  
21                  programs has had a negative impact on students'  
22                  achievement in kindergarten through grade 12 learning  
23                  environments and the ability of youth to appropriately and  
24                  fully utilize the resources of public and academic

1       libraries.

2               (6) There is an interdependence among types of  
3       libraries within a community. School libraries are at the  
4       center of this ecosystem, and school libraries provide the  
5       beginning of a lifelong connection to academic and public  
6       libraries throughout Illinois.

7               (7) Government has the responsibility to ensure that  
8       every child in the State of Illinois receives a strong  
9       foundation in literacy.

10              Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
11       2-3.206 as follows:

12              (105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new)

13              Sec. 2-3.206. Licensed School Librarian Task Force.

14              (a) As used in this Section, "licensed school librarian"  
15       means an individual who holds a Professional Educator License  
16       with a library information specialist endorsement through the  
17       State Board.

18              (b) The State Board shall establish and convene the  
19       Licensed School Librarian Task Force within 120 days after the  
20       effective date of this amendatory Act of the 104th General  
21       Assembly.

22              (c) The Task Force shall include the following members:

23              (1) Two members appointed by the State Board.

24              (2) One member from a statewide organization

1        representing licensed school librarians appointed by the  
2        Secretary of State.

3        (3) One member from a statewide educational group  
4        whose members include licensed school librarians appointed  
5        by the Secretary of State.

6        (4) One member from each of the Illinois regional  
7        library systems appointed by the Secretary of State.

8        (5) One member from an Illinois university that offers  
9        a library information specialist endorsement program  
10        appointed by the Governor.

11        (6) One member appointed by the President of the  
12        Senate.

13        (7) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House  
14        of Representatives.

15        (8) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
16        Senate.

17        (9) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
18        House of Representatives.

19        The Chairperson of the State Board, or his or her  
20        designee, shall be a nonvoting member of the Task Force and  
21        shall serve as Chairperson of the Task Force. Members of the  
22        Task Force shall serve for the entirety of the Task Force  
23        without compensation. If a vacancy occurs in Task Force's  
24        membership, it shall be filled in the same manner as the  
25        original appointment for the entirety of the Task Force. A  
26        quorum of Task Force members is not required for the Task Force

1 to convene or meet.

2 (d) The State Board shall provide administrative and  
3 technical support to the Task Force.

4 (e) The Task Force shall meet a minimum of 4 times and  
5 shall submit, no later than 12 months after the first  
6 convening of the Task Force, a final report to the Governor and  
7 the General Assembly containing recommendations, including,  
8 but not limited to, recommendations for how to ensure Illinois  
9 public elementary and secondary schools consider, budget  
10 appropriate resources for, and employ licensed school  
11 librarians in future academic years from available State and  
12 local resources. The Task Force shall also make  
13 recommendations on appropriate library resources when licensed  
14 school librarians are unable to staff or be employed in school  
15 libraries that serve students in public elementary and  
16 secondary schools. The Task Force is dissolved upon submission  
17 of its report.

18 (f) This Section is repealed on July 1, 2027.

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