

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 adding Section  
5 2-3.206 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.206. School district reorganization feasibility  
8 studies; grant program.

9 (a) The State Board of Education may award grants to  
10 school districts for the purpose of incentivizing those  
11 districts to conduct reorganization feasibility studies.

12 (b) To be eligible for a grant under this Section, the  
13 board of the school district that is applying for the grant  
14 shall:

15 (1) negotiate a proposed agreement to secure the  
16 services of a third party consultant who will conduct the  
17 reorganization feasibility study;

18 (2) adopt a resolution that is signed by the board  
19 president of the district and calls for the initiation of  
20 a school district reorganization feasibility study in  
21 accordance with the terms of the proposed agreement and  
22 any rules adopted by the State Board of Education; and

23 (3) submit the completed agreement form, the signed

1 board resolution, and such other information as the State  
2 Board of Education may, by administrative rule, require,  
3 to the regional office of education or the executive  
4 director of the intermediate service center for the  
5 district for approval.

6 (c) Upon receipt of a complete application from a  
7 district, the regional office of education or the executive  
8 director of the intermediate service center shall either (i)  
9 approve the agreement and send the agreement to the State  
10 Board of Education or (ii) disapprove the agreement and return  
11 the agreement to the district with a letter of explanation.

12 (d) From funds appropriated to it for that purpose, the  
13 State Board of Education may award grants under this Section  
14 to districts for which it receives an approved agreement under  
15 subsection (c) for costs incurred by those districts to  
16 conduct a reorganization feasibility study.

17 (e) To ensure that eligible districts are aware of the  
18 grant-funding opportunities provided under this Section, the  
19 State Board of Education shall annually notify the board and  
20 superintendent of each school district in the State of the  
21 availability of grant funds for the purpose of conducting  
22 school district reorganization feasibility studies and shall  
23 provide with that notice all of the following information:

24 (1) information concerning the procedures for applying  
25 for grant funding under this Section during the next award  
26 cycle;

1           (2) a description of the total dollar value of grant  
2           funds that are available to be awarded during the next  
3           award cycle; and

4           (3) a list of third-party consultants who have  
5           experience conducting feasibility studies in Illinois.

6           (f) Every 2 years, each board that receives a notice under  
7           subsection (e) may include the question of whether to pursue  
8           grant funding under this Section as an action item on the  
9           agenda at one of its meetings.

10          (g) When issuing grants under this Section, the State  
11          Board of Education may provide a school district up to the  
12          maximum reimbursement amount set by the State Board of  
13          Education, for the purpose of covering all or part of the costs  
14          borne by the school district to conduct a reorganization  
15          feasibility study. In awarding grants under this Section, the  
16          State Board of Education shall prioritize the awarding of  
17          grants to districts that are contiguous with one another,  
18          districts that have similar property tax rates, districts with  
19          similar per-pupil adequacy funding, and, beginning in State  
20          fiscal year 2030, other districts that have been identified as  
21          priority districts by the State Board of Education pursuant to  
22          rules adopted under subsection (i).

23          (h) No school district may be awarded a grant under this  
24          Section in any 2 consecutive award cycles.

25          (i) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules it  
26          deems necessary to implement and administer the program of

1 grant funding established under this Section, including, but  
2 not limited to, rules establishing the criteria that must be  
3 met by the third-party consultants who will perform the  
4 feasibility studies described in this Section, rules  
5 describing minimum criteria to be included in agreements  
6 executed with the third-party consultants who will perform the  
7 feasibility studies described in this Section, and, beginning  
8 in State fiscal year 2030, rules identifying additional types  
9 of school districts to be prioritized for grant funding under  
10 this Section. In State fiscal year 2035, and every 5 years  
11 thereafter, the State Board of Education shall reevaluate and,  
12 if necessary, amend the rules identifying additional types of  
13 school districts to be prioritized for grant funding under  
14 this Section.

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