



Rep. Tracy Katz Muhl

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10400HB2966ham001

LRB104 11974 JDS 23890 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2966

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 2966 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

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 elementary districts in the State and high school districts in
11 the State for the purpose of incentivizing those districts to
12 conduct reorganization feasibility studies.

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

16 (1) negotiate a proposed agreement to secure the

1 services of an approved disinterested consultant who will
2 conduct the reorganization feasibility study;

3 (2) adopt a resolution that is signed by the
4 superintendent of the district and calls for the
5 initiation of a school district reorganization feasibility
6 study in accordance with the terms of the proposed
7 agreement and any rules adopted by the State Board of
8 Education; and

9 (3) submit the completed agreement form, the signed
10 board resolution, and such other information as the State
11 Board of Education may, by administrative rule, require,
12 to the regional office of education or the executive
13 director of the intermediate service center for the
14 district for approval.

15 (c) Upon receipt of a complete application from a
16 district, the regional office of education or the executive
17 director of the intermediate service center shall either (i)
18 approve the agreement and send the agreement to the State
19 Board of Education or (ii) disapprove the agreement and return
20 the agreement to the district with a letter of explanation.

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

26 (e) To ensure that eligible districts are aware of the

1 grant-funding opportunities provided under this Section, the
2 State Board of Education shall annually notify the board and
3 superintendent of each elementary district in the State and
4 each high school district in the State of the availability of
5 grant funds for the purpose of conducting school district
6 reorganization feasibility studies and shall provide with that
7 notice all of the following information:

8 (1) information concerning the procedures for applying
9 for grant funding under this Section during the next award
10 cycle;

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

14 (3) a list of approved disinterested consultants who
15 the State Board of Education has determined have the
16 knowledge, skills, and ability to conduct an impartial and
17 independent reorganization feasibility analysis for grant
18 recipients under this Section.

19 (f) Every 2 years, each board that receives a notice under
20 subsection (e) shall include the question of whether to pursue
21 grant funding under this Section as an action item on the
22 agenda at one of its meetings.

23 (g) When issuing grants under this Section, the State
24 Board of Education may cover all or part of the costs borne by
25 a district to conduct a reorganization feasibility study. In
26 awarding grants under this Section, the State Board of

1 Education shall prioritize the awarding of grants to districts
2 that are contiguous with one another, districts that have
3 similar property tax rates, and districts with similar
4 per-pupil adequacy funding.

5 (h) No elementary district or high school district may be
6 awarded a grant under this Section in any 2 consecutive award
7 cycles.

8 (i) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules it
9 deems necessary to implement and administer the program of
10 grant funding established under this Section, including, but
11 not limited to, rules establishing the criteria that must be
12 met by the disinterested consultants who will perform the
13 feasibility studies described in this Section and rules
14 describing minimum criteria to be included in agreements
15 executed with the disinterested consultants who will perform
16 the feasibility studies described in this Section.

17 (j) As used in this Section:

18 "Elementary district" means a school district
19 organized and established for purposes of providing
20 instruction up to and including grade 8. "Elementary
21 district" includes common elementary school districts,
22 consolidated elementary school districts, community
23 consolidated school districts, combined elementary
24 districts, and charter elementary districts. "High school
25 district" means a school district organized and
26 established for purposes of providing instruction in

1 grades 9 through 12.

2 "High school district" includes charter high school
3 districts, township high school districts, consolidated
4 high school districts, community high school districts,
5 and non-high school districts.

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