



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4604

Introduced 2/3/2026, by Rep. Norma Hernandez

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Task Force Act. Creates the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Task Force. Sets forth provisions regarding administrative support, membership, compensation, meetings, and hearings. Requires the Task Force to assess the current landscape of Hispanic-serving institutions and emerging Hispanic-serving institutions in the State; identify barriers to student access, retention, and completion; review existing State policies, funding formulas, and accountability frameworks to determine their impact on Hispanic-serving institutions and their students' success; examine best practices from other states related to supporting Hispanic-serving institutions; develop recommendations to improve access to and success in higher education for students, strengthen institutional capacity, improve coordination between State agencies and Hispanic-serving institutions, align Hispanic-serving institutions' efforts with State workforce and economic development priorities, and consider the feasibility of creating a permanent State initiative, designation, or funding mechanism to support Hispanic-serving institutions. Requires the Task Force to submit a written report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the Task Force's findings and recommendations for legislative, administrative, or budgetary action. Requires the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board to each post the report on their respective public websites. Dissolves the Task Force upon the submission of its report to the Governor and General Assembly. Repeals the Act on January 1, 2029. Effective immediately.

LRB104 17761 LNS 31193 b

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. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Hispanic-Serving Institutions Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings and purpose.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) Hispanic and Latino students represent a growing
9 share of this State's college-going population and are
10 critical to the State's workforce, economic vitality, and
11 civic life;

12 (2) Hispanic-serving institutions play a central role
13 in expanding access to higher education, improving degree
14 completion, and advancing economic mobility for
15 first-generation and low-income students;

16 (3) higher education institutions that meet the
17 federal definition of a Hispanic-serving institution or
18 that are an emerging Hispanic-serving institution benefit
19 from coordinated State policy alignment, technical
20 assistance, and resource leveraging; and

21 (4) establishing a statewide advisory task force
22 allows the State to assess needs, identify best practices,
23 and develop actionable recommendations to support

1 Hispanic-serving institutions.

2 (b) The purpose of this Act is to establish the
3 Hispanic-Serving Institutions Task Force to study, assess, and
4 make recommendations regarding State support for
5 Hispanic-serving institutions.

6 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Emerging Hispanic-serving institution" means an
8 institution of higher education located in this State with an
9 undergraduate, full-time-equivalent enrollment of at least 15%
10 Hispanic or Latino students.

11 "Hispanic-serving institution" means an institution of
12 higher education located in this State that meets the federal
13 definition of a Hispanic-serving institution under Title V of
14 the federal Higher Education Act of 1965.

15 "Task Force" means the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Task
16 Force created under this Act.

17 Section 15. Hispanic-Serving Institutions Task Force.

18 (a) The Hispanic-Serving Institutions Task Force is
19 created. The Task Force shall be advisory in nature.

20 (b) The Board of Higher Education and the Illinois
21 Community College Board shall jointly provide administrative,
22 technical, and staffing support to the Task Force, subject to
23 available appropriations.

1 Section 20. Membership.

2 (a) The Task Force shall consist of all of the following
3 members:

4 (1) The Executive Director of the Board of Higher
5 Education or the Executive Director's designee, who shall
6 be co-chairperson of the Task Force.

7 (2) The Executive Director of the Illinois Community
8 College Board or the Executive Director's designee, who
9 shall be co-chairperson of the Task Force.

10 (3) One representative of the Illinois Student
11 Assistance Commission, appointed by the Executive Director
12 of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

13 (4) One representative of the Department of Commerce
14 and Economic Opportunity, appointed by the Director of
15 Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

16 (5) Two presidents or chancellors of public,
17 Hispanic-serving institutions or emerging
18 Hispanic-serving institutions located in this State,
19 appointed by the Governor.

20 (6) Two presidents or chancellors of public community
21 colleges located in this State that are Hispanic-serving
22 institutions or emerging Hispanic-serving institutions,
23 appointed by the Governor.

24 (7) One president or chancellor of a private,
25 nonprofit, Hispanic-serving institution or emerging
26 Hispanic-serving institution located in this State,

1 appointed by the Governor.

2 (8) Two faculty members from Hispanic-serving
3 institutions or emerging Hispanic-serving institutions
4 with expertise in student success, institutional capacity,
5 or workforce alignment, appointed by the Governor.

6 (9) Two students enrolled at Hispanic-serving
7 institutions or emerging Hispanic-serving institutions
8 located in this State, appointed by the Governor.

9 (10) One representative of a statewide,
10 Latino-serving, nonprofit organization with experience in
11 higher education policy, appointed by the Governor.

12 (11) One representative of the business or workforce
13 development community with experience partnering with a
14 Hispanic-serving institutions, appointed by the Governor.

15 (b) Appointments shall reflect geographic diversity and
16 representation from both community colleges and universities.

17 (c) Members of the Task Force shall serve without
18 compensation but may be reimbursed for reasonable and
19 necessary travel expenses from funds appropriated for that
20 purpose, subject to the rules of the appropriate travel
21 control board.

22 Section 25. Duties. The Task Force shall do all of the
23 following:

24 (1) Assess the current landscape of Hispanic-serving
25 institutions and emerging Hispanic-serving institutions in

1 this State, including enrollment trends, degree
2 completion, transfer outcomes, workforce alignment, and
3 institutional capacity.

4 (2) Identify barriers to student access, retention,
5 and completion, including funding equity, data capacity,
6 faculty diversification, infrastructure needs, and the
7 basic needs of students.

8 (3) Review existing State policies, funding formulas,
9 and accountability frameworks to determine their impact on
10 Hispanic-serving institutions and their students' success.

11 (4) Examine best practices from other states related
12 to supporting Hispanic-serving institutions.

13 (5) Develop recommendations to:

14 (A) improve access to and success in higher
15 education for students;

16 (B) strengthen institutional capacity, including
17 grant development and research infrastructure;

18 (C) improve coordination between State agencies
19 and Hispanic-serving institutions;

20 (D) align Hispanic-serving institutions' efforts
21 with State workforce and economic development
22 priorities; and

23 (E) consider the feasibility of creating a
24 permanent State initiative, designation, or funding
25 mechanism to support Hispanic-serving institutions.

1 Section 30. Meetings; quorum; hearings.

2 (a) The Task Force shall meet at least quarterly at the
3 call of the co-chairpersons.

4 (b) A majority of the members of the Task Force shall
5 constitute a quorum.

6 (c) The Task Force may hold public hearings and solicit
7 public testimony as necessary to carry out the Task Force's
8 duties.

9 Section 35. Report.

10 (a) No later than 18 months after the effective date of
11 this Act, the Task Force shall submit a written report to the
12 Governor and the General Assembly.

13 (b) The report shall include the Task Force's findings and
14 recommendations for legislative, administrative, or budgetary
15 action.

16 (c) The Board of Higher Education and the Illinois
17 Community College Board shall each post the report on their
18 respective public websites.

19 Section 90. Dissolution and repeal. The Task Force is
20 dissolved upon submission of the report required under Section
21 35, and this Act is repealed on January 1, 2029.

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