



Rep. Norma Hernandez

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10400HB4604ham001

LRB104 17761 LNS 34590 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 4604

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 4604 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

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

1 federal definition of a Hispanic-serving institution or
2 that are an emerging Hispanic-serving institution benefit
3 from coordinated State policy alignment, technical
4 assistance, and resource leveraging; and

5 (4) establishing a statewide advisory task force
6 allows the State to assess needs, identify best practices,
7 and develop actionable recommendations to support
8 Hispanic-serving institutions.

9 (b) The purpose of this Act is to establish the
10 Hispanic-Serving Institutions Task Force to study, assess, and
11 make recommendations regarding State support for
12 Hispanic-serving institutions.

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

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

18 "Hispanic-serving institution" means an institution of
19 higher education located in this State that meets the federal
20 definition of a Hispanic-serving institution under Title V of
21 the federal Higher Education Act of 1965.

22 "Task Force" means the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Task
23 Force created under this Act.

24 Section 15. Hispanic-Serving Institutions Task Force.

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

3 (b) The Board of Higher Education and the Illinois
4 Community College Board shall jointly provide administrative,
5 technical, and staffing support to the Task Force, subject to
6 available appropriations.

7 Section 20. Membership.

8 (a) The Task Force shall consist of all of the following
9 members:

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

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

16 (3) One representative of the Illinois Student
17 Assistance Commission, appointed by the Executive Director
18 of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

19 (4) One representative of the Department of Commerce
20 and Economic Opportunity, appointed by the Director of
21 Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

22 (5) Two presidents or chancellors of public,
23 Hispanic-serving institutions or emerging
24 Hispanic-serving institutions located in this State,
25 appointed by the Governor.

1 (6) Two presidents or chancellors of public community
2 colleges located in this State that are Hispanic-serving
3 institutions or emerging Hispanic-serving institutions,
4 appointed by the Governor.

5 (7) One president or chancellor of a private,
6 nonprofit, Hispanic-serving institution or emerging
7 Hispanic-serving institution located in this State,
8 appointed by the Governor.

9 (8) Two faculty members from Hispanic-serving
10 institutions or emerging Hispanic-serving institutions
11 with expertise in student success, institutional capacity,
12 or workforce alignment, appointed by the Governor.

13 (9) Two students enrolled at Hispanic-serving
14 institutions or emerging Hispanic-serving institutions
15 located in this State, appointed by the Governor.

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

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

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

24 (c) Members of the Task Force shall serve without
25 compensation but may be reimbursed for reasonable and
26 necessary travel expenses from funds appropriated for that

1 purpose, subject to the rules of the appropriate travel
2 control board.

3 Section 25. Duties. The Task Force shall do all of the
4 following:

5 (1) Assess the current landscape of Hispanic-serving
6 institutions and emerging Hispanic-serving institutions in
7 this State, including enrollment trends, degree
8 completion, transfer outcomes, workforce alignment, and
9 institutional capacity.

10 (2) Identify barriers to student access, retention,
11 and completion, including funding equity, data capacity,
12 faculty diversification, infrastructure needs, and the
13 basic needs of students.

14 (3) Review existing State policies and accountability
15 frameworks to determine their impact on Hispanic-serving
16 institutions and their students' success.

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

19 (5) Develop recommendations to:

20 (A) improve access to and success in higher
21 education for students;

22 (B) strengthen institutional capacity, including
23 grant development and research infrastructure;

24 (C) improve coordination between State agencies
25 and Hispanic-serving institutions;

1 (D) align Hispanic-serving institutions' efforts
2 with State workforce and economic development
3 priorities; and

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

7 Section 30. Meetings; quorum; hearings.

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

10 (b) A majority of the members of the Task Force shall
11 constitute a quorum.

12 (c) The Task Force may hold public hearings and solicit
13 public testimony as necessary to carry out the Task Force's
14 duties.

15 Section 35. Report.

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

19 (b) The report shall include the Task Force's findings and
20 recommendations for legislative, administrative, or budgetary
21 action.

22 (c) The Board of Higher Education and the Illinois
23 Community College Board shall each post the report on their
24 respective public websites.

1 Section 90. Dissolution and repeal. The Task Force is
2 dissolved upon submission of the report required under Section
3 35, and this Act is repealed on January 1, 2029.

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