



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4726

by Rep. Gregg Johnson

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 167/12 new

Amends the Public Higher Education Act. Provides that a public institution of higher education shall permit a student who is subject to a disciplinary proceeding to be assisted by an advocate of the student's choosing or, upon request, by an advocate provided by the public institution of higher education. Requires any written notice initiating a disciplinary proceeding to include a clear and conspicuous statement informing the student of the student's right to be assisted by an advocate. Provides that if a student does not have an advocate, the public institution of higher education shall make a reasonable effort to provide the student with access to an advocate. Provides that an advocate participating in a disciplinary proceeding shall receive training on the public institution of higher education's disciplinary procedures. Allows an advocate, with the consent of the student, to receive communications regarding the status of the disciplinary proceeding concurrently with the student and participate in meetings or hearings related to the disciplinary proceeding in a supportive capacity. Sets forth limitations. Allows the Board of Higher Education to adopt any rules necessary to implement the provisions.

LRB104 17648 LNS 31079 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

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 Public Higher Education Act is amended by
5 adding Section 12 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 167/12 new)

7 Sec. 12. Student disciplinary advocate.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Advocate" means an individual who assists a student
10 during a disciplinary proceeding.

11 "Disciplinary proceeding" means any institutional process
12 initiated by a public institution of higher education to
13 address alleged violations of the public institution of higher
14 education's code of conduct or academic policies that may
15 result in probation, suspension, dismissal, or other
16 disciplinary sanctions.

17 (b) A public institution of higher education shall permit
18 a student who is subject to a disciplinary proceeding to be
19 assisted by an advocate of the student's choosing or, upon
20 request, by an advocate provided by the public institution of
21 higher education.

22 (c) Any written notice initiating a disciplinary
23 proceeding shall include a clear and conspicuous statement

1 informing the student of the student's right to be assisted by
2 an advocate under this Section.

3 (d) If a student does not have an advocate, the public
4 institution of higher education shall make a reasonable effort
5 to provide the student with access to an advocate, which may
6 include, but is not limited to:

7 (1) a trained student-support coordinator or case
8 manager;

9 (2) an employee or volunteer affiliated with a campus
10 support program; or

11 (3) an individual affiliated with an alumni, peer
12 support, or wellness organization.

13 (e) An advocate participating in a disciplinary proceeding
14 under this Section shall receive training on the public
15 institution of higher education's disciplinary procedures,
16 which may be provided in person or electronically and shall
17 include an overview of relevant timelines, processes, and
18 student rights.

19 (f) With the written consent of the student, an advocate
20 may:

21 (1) receive communications regarding the status of the
22 disciplinary proceeding concurrently with the student; and

23 (2) participate in meetings or hearings related to the
24 disciplinary proceeding in a supportive capacity,
25 consistent with institutional policies and applicable law.

26 (g) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to:

1 (1) require a public institution of higher education
2 to permit an advocate to act as legal counsel, unless
3 otherwise required by law;

4 (2) alter existing standards of evidence or
5 adjudication; or

6 (3) create a private right of action against a public
7 institution of higher education.

8 (h) The Board of Higher Education may adopt any rules
9 necessary to implement this Section.