

HB5207



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5207

Introduced 2/10/2026, by Rep. Mary Gill

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.80

from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.80

Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to, on or before January 1, 2027, submit a report to the General Assembly regarding the status and availability of agricultural education programs in the State. Effective immediately.

LRB104 18467 LNS 31909 b

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 School Code is amended by changing Section
5 2-3.80 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.80) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.80)

7 Sec. 2-3.80. (a) The General Assembly recognizes that
8 agriculture is the most basic and singularly important
9 industry in the State, that agriculture is of central
10 importance to the welfare and economic stability of the State,
11 and that the maintenance of this vital industry requires a
12 continued source of trained and qualified individuals for
13 employment in agriculture and agribusiness. The General
14 Assembly hereby declares that it is in the best interests of
15 the people of the State of Illinois that a comprehensive
16 education program in agriculture be created and maintained by
17 the State's public school system in order to ensure an
18 adequate supply of trained and skilled individuals and to
19 ensure appropriate representation of racial and ethnic groups
20 in all phases of the industry. It is the intent of the General
21 Assembly that a State program for agricultural education shall
22 be a part of the curriculum of the public school system K
23 through adult, and made readily available to all school

1 districts which may, at their option, include programs in
2 education in agriculture as a part of the curriculum of that
3 district.

4 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt such rules
5 and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions
6 of this Section. The rules and regulations shall not create
7 any new State mandates on school districts as a condition of
8 receiving federal, State, and local funds by those entities.
9 It is in the intent of the General Assembly that, although this
10 Section does not create any new mandates, school districts are
11 strongly advised to follow the guidelines set forth in this
12 Section.

13 (c) The State Superintendent of Education shall assume
14 responsibility for the administration of the State program
15 adopted under this Section throughout the public school system
16 as well as the articulation of the State program to the
17 requirements and mandates of federally assisted education.
18 There is currently within the State Board of Education an
19 agricultural education unit to assist school districts in the
20 establishment and maintenance of educational programs pursuant
21 to the provisions of this Section. The staffing of the unit
22 shall at all times be comprised of an appropriate number of
23 full-time employees who shall serve as program consultants in
24 agricultural education and shall be available to provide
25 assistance to school districts. At least one consultant shall
26 be responsible for the coordination of the State program, as

1 Head Consultant. At least one consultant shall be responsible
2 for the coordination of the activities of student and
3 agricultural organizations and associations.

4 (d) A committee of 13 agriculturalists representative of
5 the various and diverse areas of the agricultural industry in
6 Illinois shall be established to at least develop a curriculum
7 and overview the implementation of the Build Illinois through
8 Quality Agricultural Education plans of the Illinois
9 Leadership Council for Agricultural Education and to advise
10 the State Board of Education on vocational agricultural
11 education, including the administration of the agricultural
12 education line item appropriation and agency rulemaking that
13 affects agricultural education educators. The committee shall
14 be composed of the following:

- 15 (1) 3 agriculturalists representing the Illinois
16 Leadership Council for Agricultural Education;
- 17 (2) 3 agriculturalists;
- 18 (3) 2 secondary agriculture teachers;
- 19 (4) one representative of "Ag In The Classroom";
- 20 (5) one community college agriculture teacher;
- 21 (6) one adult agriculture educator;
- 22 (7) one university agriculture teacher educator; and
- 23 (8) one FFA representative.

24 All members of the committee shall be appointed by the
25 Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The
26 terms of all members so appointed shall be for 3 years, except

1 that of the members initially appointed, 5 shall be appointed
2 to serve for terms of one year, 4 shall be appointed to serve
3 for terms of 2 years, and 4 shall be appointed to serve for
4 terms of 3 years. All members of the committee shall serve
5 until their successors are appointed and qualified. Subject to
6 a requirement that committee members in office before January
7 1, 2022 (the effective date of Public Act 102-463) may serve
8 the full term to which they were appointed, the appointment of
9 committee members to terms that commence on or after January
10 1, 2022 (the effective date of Public Act 102-463) shall be
11 made in a manner that gives effect at the earliest possible
12 time to the changes that are required by Public Act 102-463 in
13 the representative composition of the committee's membership.

14 Vacancies in terms shall be filled by appointment of the
15 Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for the
16 extent of the unexpired term.

17 The State Board of Education shall implement a Build
18 Illinois through Quality Agricultural Education plan following
19 receipt of these recommendations, which shall be made
20 available on or before March 31, 1987. Recommendations shall
21 include, but not be limited to, the development of a
22 curriculum and a strategy for the purpose of establishing a
23 source of trained and qualified individuals in agriculture, a
24 strategy for articulating the State program in agricultural
25 education throughout the public school system, and a consumer
26 education outreach strategy regarding the importance of

1 agriculture in Illinois.

2 The committee of agriculturalists shall serve without
3 compensation.

4 (e) A school district that offers a secondary agricultural
5 education program that is approved for State and federal
6 funding must ensure that, at a minimum, all of the following
7 are available to its secondary agricultural education
8 students:

9 (1) An instructional sequence of courses approved by
10 the State Board of Education.

11 (2) A State and nationally affiliated FFA (Future
12 Farmers of America) chapter that is integral to
13 instruction and is not treated solely as an
14 extracurricular activity.

15 (3) A mechanism for ensuring the involvement of all
16 secondary agricultural education students in formal,
17 supervised, agricultural-experience activities and
18 programs.

19 (f) Nothing in this Section may prevent those secondary
20 agricultural education programs that are in operation before
21 January 1, 2007 (the effective date of Public Act 94-855) and
22 that do not have an active State and nationally affiliated FFA
23 chapter from continuing to operate or from continuing to
24 receive funding from the State Board of Education.

25 (g) The State Board of Education shall, on or before
26 January 1, 2027, submit a report to the General Assembly

1 regarding the status and availability of agricultural
2 education programs in this State. The report may include
3 statewide trends, a listing of challenges or barriers to
4 agricultural education programs, a listing of opportunities
5 related to agricultural education, and recommendations on
6 alignment of agricultural education programs with workforce
7 and postsecondary opportunities in agriculture and
8 agribusiness.

9 (Source: P.A. 102-463, eff. 1-1-22; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21;
10 102-813, eff. 5-13-22.)

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
12 becoming law.