



Rep. Katie Stuart

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10400HB5321ham001

LRB104 20507 LNS 36456 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5321

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 5321 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 24-8.2 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/24-8.2 new)

7 Sec. 24-8.2. Continuing education coursework used for  
8 salary increases.

9 (a) In this Section:

10 "Continuing education coursework" means any graduate-level  
11 course completed by a licensed classroom teacher or  
12 administrator for the purpose of salary advancement or other  
13 compensation-related advancement under a collective bargaining  
14 agreement, district employment contract, school board policy,  
15 or salary schedule. "Continuing education coursework" includes  
16 coursework taken for purposes of obtaining subsequent

1 endorsements, as long as the coursework meets all of the  
2 requirements set forth in subsection (c), including that the  
3 classroom teacher or administrator earns a letter grade, the  
4 coursework includes an instructor of record meeting the  
5 requirements of this Section, and the coursework awards  
6 graduate-level, degree-eligible credit.

7 "Graduate-level, degree-eligible credit" means academic  
8 credit documented on an official academic transcript through a  
9 regionally accredited institution of higher education that may  
10 be applied toward a master's degree, education specialist  
11 degree, or doctoral degree.

12 "Instructor of record" means an individual assigned  
13 responsibility for academic oversight of a course, including  
14 instruction, evaluation and feedback of participant work, and  
15 the assignment of grades.

16 "Licensed classroom teacher" means an individual holding a  
17 valid and current Professional Educator License pursuant to  
18 Section 21B-20 of this Code.

19 (b) This Section applies only to classroom teachers and  
20 administrators who have the ability to achieve salary  
21 advancement through graduate-level continuing education under  
22 the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, employment  
23 contract, school board policy, or salary schedule.

24 (c) Beginning with continuing education coursework  
25 completed on or after July 1, 2026, a school district, special  
26 education cooperative, or other public educational employer

1 that provides for salary advancement for classroom teachers  
2 and administrators based on the completion of graduate-level,  
3 continuing education credit may recognize continuing education  
4 coursework for purposes of salary advancement only if the  
5 continuing education coursework meets all of the following  
6 requirements:

7 (1) The continuing education coursework is  
8 graduate-level, degree-eligible credit offered through a  
9 regionally accredited institution of higher education and  
10 documented on an official academic transcript.

11 (2) The continuing education coursework results in a  
12 letter grade issued by the institution of higher  
13 education. Coursework graded solely on a pass or fail,  
14 satisfactory or unsatisfactory, or completion basis is not  
15 eligible.

16 (3) The continuing education coursework includes an  
17 instructor of record who:

18 (A) is a credentialed educator holding a master's  
19 degree or higher and is academically qualified to  
20 teach the continuing education course, with  
21 demonstrated experience in the content area or areas  
22 of the continuing education course;

23 (B) provides substantive instructional support to  
24 the participating classroom teacher or administrator  
25 throughout the period of continuing education course  
26 enrollment; and

1           (C) evaluates participant work and provides  
2           individualized, written feedback aligned to continuing  
3           education course objectives.

4           (d) Nothing in this Section impairs the ability of the  
5           parties to a collective bargaining agreement to negotiate  
6           salary schedules or compensation structures, as long as any  
7           continuing education coursework recognized for salary  
8           advancement complies with the requirements of this Section  
9           beginning with collective bargaining agreements entered into,  
10           modified, extended, or renewed on or after the effective date  
11           of this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly.

12           Nothing in this Section requires a school district,  
13           special education cooperative, or other public educational  
14           employer to create a salary schedule or salary advancement  
15           pathway where one does not otherwise exist.

16           (e) Implementation of this Section, including standards  
17           for documentation, transcript verification, institutional  
18           accreditation, salary advancement, and compliance monitoring,  
19           shall be determined by each school district, special education  
20           cooperative, or other public educational employer.

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