



Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel

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10400HB5551sam001

LRB104 20609 LNS 37910 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5551

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 5551 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing
5 Sections 2-3.33, 2-3.84, 14-7.03, and 21B-70 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.33) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.33)

7 Sec. 2-3.33. Recomputation of claims. To recompute within
8 3 years from the final date for filing of a claim any claim for
9 general State aid reimbursement to any school district and to
10 recompute and adjust any such claims within 6 years from the
11 final date for filing, through and ending with Fiscal Year
12 2026, when there has been an adverse court or administrative
13 agency decision on the merits affecting the tax revenues of
14 the school district. However, no such adjustment shall be made
15 regarding equalized assessed valuation unless the district's
16 equalized assessed valuation is changed by greater than

1 \$250,000 or 2%. Any adjustments for claims recomputed for the
2 2016-2017 school year and prior school years shall be applied
3 to the apportionment of evidence-based funding in Section
4 18-8.15 of this Code beginning in the 2017-2018 school year
5 and thereafter. However, the recomputation of a claim for
6 evidence-based funding for a school district shall not require
7 the recomputation of claims for all districts, and the State
8 Board of Education shall only make recomputations of
9 evidence-based funding for those districts where an adjustment
10 is required, through and ending with Fiscal Year 2026. The
11 State Board is authorized to and shall apply corrections to
12 data used in evidence-based funding calculations that may
13 result in current year adjustments and shall recover funds
14 previously scheduled to be distributed or previously
15 distributed to an Organizational Unit or specially funded unit
16 during a fiscal year in accordance with Section 18-8.15 of
17 this Code.

18 Except in the case of an adverse court or administrative
19 agency decision, no recomputation of a State aid claim shall
20 be made pursuant to this Section as a result of a reduction in
21 the assessed valuation of a school district from the assessed
22 valuation of the district reported to the State Board of
23 Education by the Department of Revenue under Section 18-8.05
24 or 18-8.15 of this Code unless the requirements of Section
25 16-15 of the Property Tax Code and Section 2-3.84 of this Code
26 are complied with in all respects.

1 This paragraph applies to all requests for recomputation
2 of a general State aid or evidence-based funding claim
3 received after June 30, 2003 and before July 1, 2026. In
4 recomputing a general State aid or evidence-based funding
5 claim that was originally calculated using an extension
6 limitation equalized assessed valuation under paragraph (3) of
7 subsection (G) of Section 18-8.05 of this Code or Section
8 18-8.15 of this Code, a qualifying reduction in equalized
9 assessed valuation shall be deducted from the extension
10 limitation equalized assessed valuation that was used in
11 calculating the original claim.

12 From the total amount of general State aid or
13 evidence-based funding to be provided to districts,
14 adjustments as a result of recomputation under this Section
15 together with adjustments under Section 2-3.84 must not exceed
16 \$25 million, in the aggregate for all districts under both
17 Sections combined, of the general State aid or evidence-based
18 funding appropriation in any fiscal year; if necessary,
19 amounts shall be prorated among districts. If it is necessary
20 to prorate claims under this paragraph, then that portion of
21 each prorated claim that is approved but not paid in the
22 current fiscal year may be resubmitted as a valid claim in the
23 following fiscal year.

24 (Source: P.A. 102-699, eff. 4-19-22.)

25 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.84) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.84)

1 Sec. 2-3.84. In calculating the amount of State aid to be
2 apportioned to the various school districts in this State, the
3 State Board of Education shall incorporate and deduct the
4 total aggregate adjustments to assessments made by the State
5 Property Tax Appeal Board or Cook County Board of Appeals, as
6 reported pursuant to Section 16-15 of the Property Tax Code or
7 Section 129.1 of the Revenue Act of 1939 by the Department of
8 Revenue, from the equalized assessed valuation that is
9 otherwise to be utilized in the initial calculation for
10 adjustments reported through Fiscal Year 2026.

11 From the total amount of general State aid or
12 evidence-based funding to be provided to districts for
13 adjustments reported through Fiscal Year 2026, adjustments
14 under this Section together with adjustments as a result of
15 recomputation under Section 2-3.33 must not exceed \$25
16 million, in the aggregate for all districts under both
17 Sections combined, of the general State aid or evidence-based
18 funding appropriation in any fiscal year; if necessary,
19 amounts shall be prorated among districts. If it is necessary
20 to prorate claims under this paragraph, then that portion of
21 each prorated claim that is approved but not paid in the
22 current fiscal year may be resubmitted as a valid claim in the
23 following fiscal year.

24 (Source: P.A. 100-465, eff. 8-31-17.)

1 Sec. 14-7.03. Special education classes for children from
2 orphanages, foster family homes, children's homes, or State
3 residential units. If a school district maintains special
4 education classes on the site of orphanages and children's
5 homes, or if children from the orphanages, children's homes,
6 foster family homes, other State agencies, or State
7 residential units for children attend classes for children
8 with disabilities in which the school district is a
9 participating member of a joint agreement, or if the children
10 from the orphanages, children's homes, foster family homes,
11 other State agencies, or State residential units attend
12 classes for the children with disabilities maintained by the
13 school district, then reimbursement shall be paid to eligible
14 districts in accordance with the provisions of this Section by
15 the Comptroller as directed by the State Superintendent of
16 Education.

17 The amount of tuition for such children shall be
18 determined by the actual cost of maintaining such classes,
19 using the per capita cost formula set forth in Section
20 14-7.01, such program and cost to be pre-approved by the State
21 Superintendent of Education.

22 If a school district makes a claim for reimbursement under
23 Section 18-3 of this Code it shall not include in any claim
24 filed under this Section a claim for such children. Payments
25 authorized by law, including State or federal grants for
26 education of children included in this Section, shall be

1 deducted in determining the tuition amount.

2 Nothing in this Code shall be construed so as to prohibit
3 reimbursement for the tuition of children placed in for profit
4 facilities. Private facilities shall provide adequate space at
5 the facility for special education classes provided by a
6 school district or joint agreement for children with
7 disabilities who are residents of the facility at no cost to
8 the school district or joint agreement upon request of the
9 school district or joint agreement. If such a private facility
10 provides space at no cost to the district or joint agreement
11 for special education classes provided to children with
12 disabilities who are residents of the facility, the district
13 or joint agreement shall not include any costs for the use of
14 those facilities in its claim for reimbursement.

15 Reimbursement for tuition may include the cost of
16 providing summer school programs for children with severe and
17 profound disabilities served under this Section. Claims for
18 that reimbursement shall be filed by November 1 and shall be
19 paid on or before December 15 from appropriations made for the
20 purposes of this Section.

21 The State Board of Education shall establish such rules
22 and regulations as may be necessary to implement the
23 provisions of this Section.

24 Claims filed on behalf of programs operated under this
25 Section housed in an orphanage, children's home, private
26 facility, State residential unit, district or joint agreement

1 site, jail, detention center, or county-owned shelter care
2 facility shall be on an individual student basis only for
3 eligible students with disabilities. These claims shall be in
4 accordance with applicable rules.

5 Each district claiming reimbursement for individual
6 students shall have the eligibility of those students verified
7 by the State Board of Education. On September 30, December 31,
8 and March 31, the State Board of Education shall voucher
9 payments for individual students based upon an estimated cost
10 calculated from the prior year's claim. Final claims for
11 individual students for the regular school term must be
12 received at the State Board of Education by June 15. Claims for
13 individual students received after June 15 shall not be
14 honored. Claims received by June 15 may be amended until
15 August 1. Final claims for individual students shall be
16 vouchered by August 31. However, notwithstanding any other
17 provisions of this Section or this Code, if the amount
18 appropriated for any fiscal year is less than the amount
19 required for purposes of this Section, the amount required to
20 eliminate any insufficient reimbursement for each district
21 claim under this Section shall be reimbursed on August 31 of
22 the next fiscal year. Payments required to eliminate any
23 insufficiency for prior fiscal year claims shall be made
24 before any claims are paid for the current fiscal year.

25 Regional superintendents may operate special education
26 classes for children from orphanages, foster family homes,

1 children's homes, or State residential units located within
2 the educational services region upon consent of the school
3 board otherwise so obligated. In electing to assume the powers
4 and duties of a school district in providing and maintaining
5 such a special education program, the regional superintendent
6 may enter into joint agreements with other districts and may
7 contract with public or private schools or the orphanage,
8 foster family home, children's home, or State residential unit
9 for provision of the special education program. The regional
10 superintendent exercising the powers granted under this
11 Section shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of providing
12 such programs by the resident district as defined in Section
13 14-1.11a.

14 Any child who is not a resident of Illinois who is placed
15 in a child welfare institution, private facility, foster
16 family home, State operated program, orphanage, or children's
17 home shall have the payment for his educational tuition and
18 any related services assured by the placing agent.

19 For each student with a disability who is placed in a
20 residential facility by an Illinois public agency or by any
21 court in this State, the costs for educating the student are
22 eligible for reimbursement under this Section.

23 The district of residence of the student with a disability
24 as defined in Section 14-1.11a is responsible for the actual
25 costs of the student's special education program and is
26 eligible for reimbursement under this Section when placement

1 is made by a State agency or the courts.

2 When a dispute arises over the determination of the
3 district of residence under this Section, the district or
4 districts may appeal the decision in writing to the State
5 Superintendent of Education, who, upon review of materials
6 submitted and any other items or information he or she may
7 request for submission, shall issue a written decision on the
8 matter. The decision of the State Superintendent of Education
9 shall be final.

10 In the event a district does not make a tuition payment to
11 another district that is providing the special education
12 program and services, the State Board of Education shall
13 immediately withhold 125% of the then remaining annual tuition
14 cost from the State aid or categorical aid payment due to the
15 school district that is determined to be the resident school
16 district. All funds withheld by the State Board of Education
17 shall immediately be forwarded to the school district where
18 the student is being served.

19 When a child eligible for services under this Section is
20 ~~14-7.03 must be~~ placed in a nonpublic facility, that facility
21 shall meet the programmatic requirements of Section 14-7.02
22 and its regulations, and the educational services shall be
23 funded only in accordance with this Section ~~14-7.03~~.

24 Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, when a child
25 eligible for services under this Section is placed in a
26 separate public day school, that school shall meet the

1 definition of Section 14-1.08a and the programmatic
2 requirements and rules for separate public day schools, and
3 the educational services shall be funded only in accordance
4 with this Section.

5 (Source: P.A. 101-17, eff. 6-14-19.)

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-70)

7 Sec. 21B-70. Illinois Teaching Excellence Program.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Cohort" means a group of candidates for National Board
10 certification who are organized for the purpose of
11 participating in a structured support program, including
12 facilitated professional development, mentoring, and
13 collaborative learning.

14 "Diverse candidate" means a candidate who identifies with
15 any of the ethnicities reported on the Illinois Report Card
16 other than White.

17 "Hard-to-staff school" means a public school that (i) is
18 identified as hard to staff based on data reported on its
19 school report card under Section 10-17a or (ii) does not have a
20 school report card under Section 10-17a but serves a student
21 population in which ~~no less than~~ 30% or more of the student
22 enrollment is considered low income ~~low income~~ as determined
23 by the State Board of Education using available enrollment or
24 funding data ~~reported by the report card under Section 10-17a~~
25 of this Code.

1 "National Board certification" means a voluntary, advanced
2 teaching credential that exceeds State licensure requirements
3 and is awarded to teachers who meet rigorous national
4 standards for accomplished teaching practice established by
5 the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards through
6 a comprehensive, performance-based assessment process. A
7 teacher who holds such certification may be referred to as a
8 "National Board certified teacher" under this Section.

9 "National Board certified teacher candidate cohort
10 facilitator" means a National Board certified teacher who
11 collaborates to advance the goal of supporting all other
12 candidate cohorts other than diverse candidate cohorts through
13 the Illinois National Board for Professional Teaching
14 Standards Comprehensive Support System.

15 "National Board certified teacher diverse candidate cohort
16 facilitator" means a National Board certified teacher who
17 collaborates to advance the goal of supporting racially and
18 ethnically diverse candidates through the Illinois National
19 Board for Professional Teaching Standards Comprehensive
20 Support System.

21 "National Board certified teacher diverse liaison" means
22 an individual or entity that supports the National Board
23 certified teacher leading a diverse candidate cohort.

24 "National Board certified teacher liaison" means an
25 individual or entity that supports the National Board
26 certified teacher leading candidate cohorts other than diverse

1 candidate cohorts.

2 ~~"National Board certified teacher rural or remote or~~
3 ~~distant candidate cohort facilitator" means a National Board~~
4 ~~certified teacher who collaborates to advance the goal of~~
5 ~~supporting rural or remote candidates through the Illinois~~
6 ~~National Board for Professional Teaching Standards~~
7 ~~Comprehensive Support System.~~

8 ~~"National Board certified teacher rural or remote or~~
9 ~~distant liaison" means an individual or entity that supports~~
10 ~~the National Board certified teacher leading a rural or remote~~
11 ~~candidate cohort.~~

12 "Qualified educator" means a teacher or school counselor
13 currently employed in a school district who is in the process
14 of obtaining certification through the National Board for
15 Professional Teaching Standards or who has completed
16 certification and holds a current Professional Educator
17 License with a National Board for Professional Teaching
18 Standards designation or a retired teacher or school counselor
19 who holds a Professional Educator License with a National
20 Board for Professional Teaching Standards designation.

21 ~~"Rural or remote" or "rural or remote or distant" means~~
22 ~~local codes 32, 33, 41, 42, and 43 of the New Urban Centric~~
23 ~~Locale Codes, as defined by the National Center for Education~~
24 ~~Statistics.~~

25 "School term" means that portion of the school year, from
26 July 1 to the following June 30, when school is in actual

1 session.

2 "Tier 1" has the meaning given to that term under Section
3 18-8.15.

4 "Tier 2" has the meaning given to that term under Section
5 18-8.15.

6 (a-5) A regional office of education or intermediate
7 service center may establish one cohort per county, except
8 that an additional cohort may be established if the number of
9 candidates exceeds 20 participants in a single cohort. A
10 cohort shall include no more than 20 candidates.

11 A school district or individual school may establish a
12 cohort if at least 3 candidates are enrolled. The State Board
13 of Education or its designee may provide or approve a cohort
14 facilitator for a cohort. If a cohort facilitator is not
15 available locally, the State Board of Education or its
16 designee may (i) provide a facilitator through a virtual
17 format or (ii) assign candidates to an existing cohort
18 operated by a regional office of education, an intermediate
19 service center, or another approved provider, including a
20 virtual cohort.

21 (b) Any funds appropriated for the Illinois Teaching
22 Excellence Program must be used to provide monetary assistance
23 and incentives for qualified educators who are employed by or
24 retired from school districts and who have or are in the
25 process of obtaining certification ~~licensure~~ through the
26 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and for

1 indirect costs necessary for program operations. The goal of
2 the program is to improve instruction and student performance.

3 The State Board of Education shall allocate an amount as
4 annually appropriated by the General Assembly for the Illinois
5 Teaching Excellence Program for (i) application or re-take
6 fees for each qualified educator seeking to complete
7 certification through the National Board for Professional
8 Teaching Standards, to be paid directly to the National Board
9 for Professional Teaching Standards, and (ii) incentives under
10 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (c) for each
11 qualified educator, to be distributed to the respective school
12 district, and incentives under paragraph (5) of subsection
13 (c), to be distributed to the respective school district or
14 directly to the qualified educator. The school district shall
15 distribute this payment to each eligible teacher or school
16 counselor as a single payment.

17 The State Board of Education's annual budget must set out
18 by separate line item the appropriation for the program.
19 Unless otherwise provided by appropriation, qualified
20 educators are eligible for monetary assistance and incentives
21 outlined in subsections (c) and (d) of this Section.

22 (c) When there are adequate funds available, monetary
23 assistance and incentives shall include the following:

- 24 (1) A maximum of \$2,000 toward the application or
25 re-take fee for teachers or school counselors in a Tier 1
26 school district who apply on a first-come, first-serve

1 basis for National Board certification.

2 (2) A maximum of \$2,000 toward the application or
3 re-take fee for teachers or school counselors in a school
4 district other than a Tier 1 school district who apply on a
5 first-come, first-serve basis for National Board
6 certification.

7 (3) A maximum of \$1,000 toward the National Board for
8 Professional Teaching Standards' renewal application fee.

9 (3.5) An annual retention bonus of \$4,000 awarded for
10 5 consecutive school years to a National Board certified
11 teacher who is employed in a hard-to-staff school in this
12 State. To be eligible for this retention bonus in a given
13 school year, a National Board certified teacher must (i)
14 be employed on a full-time basis as a teacher or school
15 counselor in a public school in this State for the entire
16 school term, (ii) hold a valid and active certificate
17 issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching
18 Standards, and (iii) be assigned for the full school term
19 to a school designated as hard to staff at the time of
20 initial qualification. A National Board certified teacher
21 who qualifies for this retention bonus remains eligible to
22 receive the bonus for the full 5-year award period,
23 notwithstanding a subsequent change in the school's
24 hard-to-staff designation, as long as the teacher remains
25 continuously employed at the same school or a different
26 hard-to-staff school. Eligibility for this retention bonus

1 terminates if the National Board certified teacher ceases
2 to be employed full time in a public school in this State
3 or accepts employment at a school that is not designated
4 as a hard-to-staff school. The State Board of Education
5 may not deny a National Board certified teacher this
6 retention bonus solely because the public school at which
7 the teacher is employed does not have a school report card
8 under Section 10-17a.

9 Retention bonus funds shall be distributed on a
10 first-come, first-served basis. In any fiscal year in
11 which appropriated funds are insufficient to award all
12 eligible National Board certified teachers a retention
13 bonus, those eligible applicants who do not receive a
14 retention bonus shall be given priority consideration for
15 the subsequent fiscal year, in the order of their original
16 application.

17 (4) (Blank).

18 (5) An annual incentive of no more than \$2,250
19 prorated at \$50 per hour, which shall be paid to each
20 qualified educator currently employed in a school district
21 who holds both a National Board for Professional Teaching
22 Standards designation and a current corresponding
23 certificate issued by the National Board for Professional
24 Teaching Standards and who agrees, in writing, to provide
25 up to 45 hours of mentoring or National Board for
26 Professional Teaching Standards professional development

1 or both during the school year to classroom teachers or
2 school counselors, as applicable. Funds must be disbursed
3 on a first-come, first-serve basis, with priority given to
4 Tier 1 school districts. Mentoring shall include, either
5 singly or in combination, the following:

6 (A) National Board for Professional Teaching
7 Standards certification candidates.

8 (B) National Board for Professional Teaching
9 Standards re-take candidates.

10 (C) National Board for Professional Teaching
11 Standards renewal candidates.

12 (D) (Blank).

13 ~~Funds may also be used for professional development~~
14 ~~training provided by the National Board Resource Center.~~

15 ~~Funds may also be used for instructional leadership~~
16 ~~training for qualified educators interested in supporting~~
17 ~~implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards or teaching~~
18 ~~and learning priorities of the State Board of Education or~~
19 ~~both.~~

20 (d) (Blank). ~~In addition to the monetary assistance and~~
21 ~~incentives provided under subsection (c), if adequate funds~~
22 ~~are available, incentives shall include the following~~
23 ~~incentives for the program in rural or remote schools or~~
24 ~~school districts or for programs working with diverse~~
25 ~~candidates or for retention bonuses for hard to staff schools,~~
26 ~~to be distributed to the respective school district or~~

1 ~~directly to the qualified educator or entity:~~

2 ~~(1) A one-time incentive of \$3,000 payable to National~~
3 ~~Board certified teachers teaching in Tier 1 or Tier 2~~
4 ~~rural or remote school districts or rural or remote~~
5 ~~schools in Tier 1 or Tier 2 school districts, with~~
6 ~~priority given to teachers teaching in Tier 1 rural or~~
7 ~~remote school districts or rural or remote schools in Tier~~
8 ~~1 school districts.~~

9 ~~(2) An annual incentive of \$3,200 for National Board~~
10 ~~certified teacher rural or remote or distant candidate~~
11 ~~cohort facilitators, diverse candidate cohort~~
12 ~~facilitators, and candidate cohort facilitators. Priority~~
13 ~~shall be given to rural or remote candidate cohort~~
14 ~~facilitators and diverse candidate cohort facilitators.~~

15 ~~(3) An annual incentive of \$2,500 for National Board~~
16 ~~certified teacher rural or remote or distant liaisons,~~
17 ~~diverse liaisons, and liaisons. Priority shall be given to~~
18 ~~rural or remote liaisons and diverse liaisons.~~

19 ~~(4) An annual retention bonus of \$4,000 per year for 2~~
20 ~~consecutive years shall be awarded to National Board~~
21 ~~certified teachers employed in hard-to-staff schools.~~
22 ~~Funds must be disbursed on a first-come, first-served~~
23 ~~basis.~~

24 (e) Teachers who hold both a National Board for
25 Professional Teaching Standards designation and a current
26 corresponding certificate issued by the National Board for

1 Professional Teaching Standards shall be encouraged to
2 participate in other mentoring programs.

3 (f) A school district may award lane placement credit on
4 the salary schedule to a teacher who is a National Board
5 certified teacher or a candidate for National Board
6 certification for participation in professional development
7 associated with a National Board support program. Such credit
8 may be applied toward advancement on the school district's
9 salary schedule in accordance with the terms of an applicable
10 collective bargaining agreement or district policy.

11 (g) The State Board of Education shall report to the
12 General Assembly on the available data pertaining to services
13 offered, total educator participation and related demographic
14 data, recruitment efforts, and program growth and outcomes by
15 October 15, 2027.

16 (Source: P.A. 103-122, eff. 6-30-23; 103-207, eff. 1-1-24;
17 103-605, eff. 7-1-24.)

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law."