



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5602

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Amy Briel

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 148/16 new

Amends the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act. Provides that the State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board, the Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, in furtherance of postsecondary and career expectations, shall jointly develop a Senior Gap Semester Pilot Program. Provides that the Pilot Program shall only be offered to students eligible for grade 12 in school districts located within Regional Office of Education 35. Provides that the Pilot Program shall offer a semester-long program in which a grade 12 student may explore a profession or career within the health care industry, agriculture industry, manufacturing industry, and early childhood education industry. Requires the State Board of Education to consult with statewide organizations representing health care, agriculture, manufacturing, and early childhood education, and publish and maintain on its website a current database of employer champions for work-based learning and career readiness systems and programs in each industry.

LRB104 18215 LNS 31654 b

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 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act
5 is amended by adding Section 16 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 148/16 new)

7 Sec. 16. Senior Gap Semester Pilot Program. ISBE, ICCB,
8 IBHE, and ISAC, in furtherance of postsecondary and career
9 expectations, shall jointly develop a Senior Gap Semester
10 Pilot Program. The Pilot Program shall only be offered to
11 students eligible for grade 12. The Pilot Program shall be
12 implemented at school districts located within the Regional
13 Office of Education 35. The Pilot Program shall offer a
14 semester-long program in which a grade 12 student may explore
15 a profession or career within the health care industry,
16 agriculture industry, manufacturing industry, and early
17 childhood education industry.

18 ISBE shall consult with statewide organizations
19 representing health care, agriculture, manufacturing, and
20 early childhood education. After consultation, ISBE shall
21 publish and maintain on its website a current database of
22 employer champions for work-based learning and career
23 readiness systems and programs in each industry. Each employer

1 must consent to its designation as a champion and its
2 information being published in the database.