



Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

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10400SB0407sam001

LRB104 06645 LNS 24746 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 407

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 407 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 26-20 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/26-20 new)

7 Sec. 26-20. The Chronic Absence Task Force.

8 (a) The Chronic Absence Task Force is created within the
9 State Board of Education to study the impact of the COVID-19
10 pandemic on chronic absence and to support the development of
11 a State strategy to address the ongoing challenges presented
12 by chronic absenteeism for students in early childhood
13 education and care programs and students in grades
14 kindergarten through 12.

15 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

16 (1) the Director of Children and Family Services or

1 his or her designee;

2 (2) the Chairperson of the State Board of Education or
3 his or her designee;

4 (3) the Chairperson of the Board of Higher Education
5 or his or her designee;

6 (4) the Secretary of Human Services or his or her
7 designee;

8 (5) the Secretary of Early Childhood or his or her
9 designee;

10 (6) the Director of Public Health or his or her
11 designee;

12 (7) the Chairperson of the Illinois Community College
13 Board or his or her designee; and

14 (8) the following persons, each appointed by the State
15 Superintendent of Education:

16 (A) one expert in children's disabilities,
17 impairments, and social-emotional issues;

18 (B) 3 educators who (i) are either teachers or
19 school support personnel and (ii) are currently
20 employed in a public school or early learning center
21 in this State;

22 (C) one member who represents a non-profit
23 organization that advocates for students in temporary
24 living situations;

25 (D) one member who represents a non-profit
26 organization that advocates for the well-being of all

1 children and families in this State;

2 (E) one member who represents a State non-profit
3 organization that conducts community organizing around
4 family issues;

5 (F) 2 members who each represent separate
6 statewide professional teachers' organizations;

7 (G) one member who represents a professional
8 teachers' organization in a city having a population
9 exceeding 500,000;

10 (H) one member who represents an association for
11 school administrators;

12 (I) one member who represents an association for
13 school board members;

14 (J) one member who represents an association for
15 school principals;

16 (K) one member who represents an association for
17 regional superintendents of schools;

18 (L) one member who represents an association for
19 parents;

20 (M) one member who represents an association for
21 high school districts;

22 (N) one member who represents an association for
23 large unit districts;

24 (O) one member who represents an organization that
25 advocates for healthier school environments in this
26 State;

1 (P) one member who represents an organization that
2 advocates for the health and safety of youth and
3 families in this State by providing capacity-building
4 services;

5 (Q) one member who represents a statewide
6 association of local philanthropic organizations that
7 advocates for effective educational, health, and human
8 service policies to improve this State's communities;

9 (R) one member who represents a statewide
10 organization that advocates for partnerships among
11 schools, families, and the community and that, using a
12 school as a hub, provides access to support and
13 removes barriers to learning and development;

14 (S) one member who represents an organization for
15 charter schools in this State; and

16 (T) one member who represents an organization for
17 statewide programs actively involved in truancy
18 intervention.

19 (c) Task Force members shall serve without compensation
20 and shall, subject to the rules of the appropriate travel
21 control board, be reimbursed for any travel expenses from
22 appropriations to the State Board of Education available for
23 that purpose.

24 (d) The Task Force shall meet initially at the call of the
25 State Superintendent of Education. The members shall elect a
26 chairperson at the initial meeting of the Task Force. For

1 every meeting after the initial meeting, the Task Force shall
2 meet at the call of the chairperson.

3 (e) The State Board of Education shall provide
4 administrative support to the Task Force.

5 (f) The Task Force shall hold hearings on a periodic basis
6 to receive testimony from the public regarding the chronic
7 absence of students.

8 (g) The Task Force shall identify strategies, mechanisms,
9 and approaches to help families, educators, principals,
10 superintendents, and the State Board of Education address and
11 mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the chronic
12 absence of students in early childhood education and care
13 programs and students in grades kindergarten through 12 and
14 shall recommend the following to the General Assembly and the
15 State Board of Education:

16 (1) a coherent State strategy for addressing the high
17 rates of chronic absenteeism in this State;

18 (2) State goals for a reduction in chronic
19 absenteeism;

20 (3) recommendations related to current State Board of
21 Education policies regarding chronic absence, truancy, and
22 attendance;

23 (4) State policies or initiatives to be established in
24 order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on chronic
25 absenteeism; and

26 (5) evidence-based practices for using attendance and

1 chronic absenteeism data to create a multi-tiered system
2 of support that promotes ongoing professional development
3 and equips school-based and community-based personnel with
4 the skills and knowledge necessary to reduce contributing
5 factors to chronic absenteeism in early childhood
6 education and care programs and elementary and secondary
7 schools, which will result in students being ready for
8 college and a career.

9 (h) The Task Force shall submit an annual report to the
10 General Assembly and the State Board of Education no later
11 than December 15 of each year.

12 (i) The Task Force is dissolved and this Section is
13 repealed on December 16, 2027.

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.".