

SB1741



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1741

Introduced 2/5/2025, by Sen. Rachel Ventura

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new

Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to establish and convene the Licensed School Librarian Task Force, which shall meet a minimum of 4 times and submit, no later than 12 months after the first convening of the Task Force, a report to the Governor and the General Assembly containing recommendations, including, but not limited to, recommendations on how to ensure public elementary and secondary schools consider, budget appropriate resources for, and employ licensed school librarians in future school years from available State and local resources. Sets forth provisions concerning the members of the Task Force, support for the Task Force, and other Task Force recommendations. Repeals these provisions on December 31, 2027. Effective immediately.

LRB104 09495 LNS 19556 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 1. Findings. The General Assembly makes all of the
5 following findings:

6 (1) Licensed school librarians help students acquire
7 unique skills not taught in the classroom and information
8 and technology skills that are essential for students.

9 (2) Academic research provides significant evidence
10 indicating the value added to students' academic
11 development by the presence of a strong school library
12 program led by a licensed school librarian.

13 (3) The presence of full-time, licensed school
14 librarians and appropriate support staff who implement a
15 quality, school-integrated, library-services program is
16 directly related to student educational gains.

17 (4) Quality school library programs staffed by
18 licensed school librarians help close the achievement gap
19 of students who come from economically disadvantaged
20 backgrounds.

21 (5) Curtailment of school-library instructional
22 programs has had a negative impact on students'
23 achievement in kindergarten through grade 12 learning
24 environments and the ability of youth to appropriately and

1 fully utilize the resources of public and academic
2 libraries.

3 (6) There is an interdependence among types of
4 libraries within a community, school libraries are at the
5 center of this ecosystem, and school libraries provide the
6 beginning of a lifelong connection to academic and public
7 libraries throughout Illinois.

8 (7) Government has the responsibility to ensure that
9 every child in the state of Illinois receives a strong
10 foundation in literacy.

11 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
12 2-3.206 as follows:

13 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new)

14 Sec. 2-3.206. Licensed School Librarian Task Force.

15 (a) As used in this Section, "licensed school librarian"
16 means an individual who holds a Professional Educator License
17 with a Library Information Specialist endorsement through the
18 State Board of Education.

19 (b) The State Board of Education shall establish and
20 convene the Licensed School Librarian Task Force within 120
21 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the
22 104th General Assembly.

23 (c) The Task Force shall include all of the following
24 members:

1 (1) Two members appointed by the State Board of
2 Education.

3 (2) One member from a statewide organization
4 representing licensed school librarians appointed by the
5 Secretary of State.

6 (3) One member from a statewide educational group
7 whose members include licensed school librarians appointed
8 by the Secretary of State.

9 (4) One member from each of the Illinois regional
10 library systems appointed by the Secretary of State.

11 (5) One member from an Illinois university that offers
12 a licensed information specialist endorsement program
13 appointed by the Governor.

14 (6) One member appointed by the President of the
15 Senate.

16 (7) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House
17 of Representatives.

18 (8) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
19 Senate.

20 (9) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
21 House of Representatives.

22 The Chairperson of the State Board of Education or his or
23 her designee shall be a nonvoting member of the Task Force and
24 shall serve as Chairperson of the Task Force. Members of the
25 Task Force shall serve for the entirety of the Task Force
26 without compensation. If a vacancy occurs in the Task Force's

1 membership, it shall be filled in the same manner as the
2 original appointment for the entirety of the Task Force. A
3 quorum of Task Force members is not required for the Task Force
4 to convene or meet.

5 (d) The State Board of Education shall provide
6 administrative and technical support to the Task Force.

7 (e) The Task Force shall meet a minimum of 4 times and
8 shall submit, no later than 12 months after the first
9 convening of the Task Force, a report to the Governor and the
10 General Assembly containing recommendations, including, but
11 not limited to, recommendations on how to ensure public
12 elementary and secondary schools consider, budget appropriate
13 resources for, and employ licensed school librarians in future
14 school years from available State and local resources. The
15 Task Force shall also make recommendations on appropriate
16 library resources in cases in which licensed school librarians
17 are unable to staff or be employed in school libraries that
18 serve students in public elementary and secondary schools. The
19 Task Force is dissolved upon submission of its report.

20 (f) This Section is repealed on December 31, 2027.

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