

# SB3969



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3969

Introduced 2/6/2026, by Sen. Graciela Guzmán

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 205/7

from Ch. 144, par. 187

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that the Board of Higher Education, in approving or disapproving a public institution of higher education's proposal for a new unit of instruction, research, or public service or in approving modifications, must take into account the unique student demographics and needs of the particular institution.

LRB104 20738 LNS 34241 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 5. The Board of Higher Education Act is amended by  
5 changing Section 7 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 205/7) (from Ch. 144, par. 187)

7 Sec. 7. The Board of Trustees of the University of  
8 Illinois, the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois  
9 University, the Board of Trustees of Chicago State University,  
10 the Board of Trustees of Eastern Illinois University, the  
11 Board of Trustees of Governors State University, the Board of  
12 Trustees of Illinois State University, the Board of Trustees  
13 of Northeastern Illinois University, the Board of Trustees of  
14 Northern Illinois University, the Board of Trustees of Western  
15 Illinois University, the Illinois Community College Board and  
16 the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not  
17 hereafter undertake the establishment of any new unit of  
18 instruction, research, or public service without the approval  
19 of the Board. The term "new unit of instruction, research, or  
20 public service" includes the establishment of a college,  
21 school, division, institute, department, or other unit in any  
22 field of instruction, research, or public service not  
23 theretofore included in the program of the institution, and

1 includes the establishment of any new branch or campus. The  
2 term does not include reasonable and moderate extensions of  
3 existing curricula, research, or public service programs which  
4 have a direct relationship to existing programs; and the Board  
5 may, under its rulemaking power, define the character of such  
6 reasonable and moderate extensions.

7 Such governing boards shall submit to the Board all  
8 proposals for a new unit of instruction, research, or public  
9 service. The Board may approve or disapprove the proposal in  
10 whole or in part or approve modifications thereof whenever in  
11 its judgment such action is consistent with the objectives of  
12 an existing or proposed statewide strategic plan of higher  
13 education and must take into account the unique student  
14 demographics and needs of the particular institution.

15 The Board of Higher Education is authorized to review  
16 periodically all existing programs of instruction, research,  
17 and public service at the State universities and colleges and  
18 to advise the appropriate board of control if the contribution  
19 of each program is not educationally and economically  
20 justified. The Board shall annually identify and provide to  
21 each public university certain programs of instruction that  
22 exhibit indicators of low performance in enrollment, degree  
23 completion, and relative high expense per degree. Each public  
24 university shall review this information, together with any  
25 other relevant information, and report annually to the Board  
26 using a status rubric provided by the Board, including

1 programs to be closed or consolidated. The Board shall report  
2 annually on the instructional programs offered at public  
3 institutions of higher education, showing (i) the number,  
4 types, and locations of instructional programs, (ii) any new  
5 programs that were created, (iii) any existing programs that  
6 have been closed or consolidated as a result of the review and  
7 report, and (iv) other information relevant to assessing the  
8 State's portfolio of programs. The report must be submitted to  
9 the General Assembly and the Governor by March 15, 2026 and  
10 each March 15 thereafter. The Board shall have the authority  
11 to define relevant terms and timelines by rule with respect to  
12 this reporting.

13 (Source: P.A. 104-292, eff. 8-15-25.)