



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

**HB4495**

by Rep. André Thapedi

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Vocational Academy Opportunity Act. Creates 2 vocational academies, one located in Cook County and the other in St. Clair County, which shall be residential institutions. Provides that each academy shall be a State agency, funded by State appropriations, private contributions, and endowments. Provides that the academies shall be governed by a single Board of Trustees for the collective operation and oversight of the academies. Provides for the membership of the Board. Specifies the duties and powers of the Board. Provides that each academy shall be empowered to lease or purchase real and personal property on commercially reasonable terms for the use by the academy.

LRB100 18415 AXK 33628 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

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. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Vocational Academy Opportunity Act.

6 Section 5. Definition. In this Act, "Board" means the Board  
7 of Trustees created by this Act.

8 Section 10. Establishment, funding, and, location.

9 (a) There is created 2 vocational academies, one located in  
10 Cook County and the other in St. Clair County, which shall be  
11 residential institutions. Each academy shall be located within  
12 one linear mile of a major interstate in a community where the  
13 average income of a household of 3 people is no greater than  
14 100% of the federal poverty level. The land value of the  
15 community in which the academy is located may not exceed \$7.50  
16 per square foot.

17 (b) Each academy shall be a State agency, funded by State  
18 appropriations, private contributions, and endowments. Minimal  
19 fees for residential students may be charged. Each academy may  
20 admit those students who have completed the academic equivalent  
21 of the 9th grade and may offer a program of secondary and  
22 postsecondary course work. Admission shall be determined by

1 competitive examination.

2 (c) In order to be eligible for State appropriations, each  
3 academy shall submit to the Board of Higher Education no later  
4 than the 1st day of October of each year its budget proposal  
5 for the operation and capital needs of the academy for its next  
6 fiscal year.

7 Section 15. Board of Trustees. The academies shall be  
8 governed by a single Board of Trustees for the collective  
9 operation and oversight of the academies, which shall consist  
10 of the following members:

11 (1) ex officio nonvoting members who shall be: the  
12 State Superintendent of Education, the Executive Director  
13 of the Illinois Community College Board, the Executive  
14 Director of the Board of Higher Education, and the  
15 superintendent of schools of the school district where each  
16 campus is located;

17 (2) three Representatives of secondary education,  
18 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education;

19 (3) two Representatives of higher education, appointed  
20 by the Executive Director of the Board of Higher Education;

21 (4) the Mayor of Chicago, or his or her designee;

22 (5) the Mayor of East St. Louis, or his or her  
23 designee;

24 (6) the President of the American Federation of Labor  
25 and Congress of Industrial Organizations, or his or her

1           designee; and

2           (7) two members representative of the general public,  
3           appointed by the Governor.

4           With the exception of the initial appointments, the members  
5           terms of office shall be for 6 years. At the first meeting,  
6           members shall draw lots for appointments of 2, 4, or 6 year  
7           initial terms. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired  
8           portion of the terms by appointment of the officer who  
9           appointed the person causing such vacancy. The initial terms  
10          shall commence upon appointment and upon expiration of a term,  
11          the member shall continue serving until a successor is  
12          appointed. The Board shall select a chair from among its  
13          members who shall serve a 2-year term as chair. Members shall  
14          receive no salary but shall be reimbursed for all ordinary and  
15          necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties as  
16          members of the Board.

17          Section 20. Powers of the Board. The Board of Trustees is  
18          authorized to:

19                 (1) Accept donations, bequests, or other forms of  
20                 financial assistance for educational purposes from any  
21                 public or private person or agency and comply with rules  
22                 and regulations governing grants from the federal  
23                 government or from any other person or agency, which are  
24                 not in contravention of the Illinois Constitution or the  
25                 laws of the State of Illinois.

1           (2) Purchase equipment and make improvements to  
2 facilities necessary for the use of the academies, in  
3 accordance with applicable law.

4           (3) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules, regulations, and  
5 policies necessary for the conduct of the business of the  
6 Board.

7           (4) Award certificates and issue diplomas for  
8 successful completion of programs of study requirements.

9           (5) Select a Director who shall be the chief  
10 administrative officer of the academies and who shall  
11 administer the rules, regulations, and policies adopted by  
12 the Board of the Trustees under this Section. The Director  
13 shall also be the chief administrative officer of the Board  
14 and shall be responsible for all of the Board's  
15 administrative functions, duties, and needs.

16           (6) Determine faculty and staff positions necessary  
17 for the efficient operation of the academies and select  
18 personnel for the positions.

19           (7) Prepare and adopt an annual budget necessary for  
20 the continued operation of the academies.

21           (8) Enter into contracts and agreements which have been  
22 recommended by the Director, to the extent that funds are  
23 specifically appropriated for that purpose, with other  
24 public agencies with respect to cooperative enterprises  
25 and undertakings related to or associated with an  
26 educational purpose or program affecting education in an

1 academy. This shall not preclude the Board from entering  
2 into other contracts and agreements that it may deem  
3 necessary to carry out its duties and functions.

4 (9) Perform other functions as are necessary to the  
5 supervision and control of those phases of education under  
6 its supervision and control.

7 (10) Delegate to the Director any administrative  
8 powers and duties as it deems appropriate to aid the  
9 Director in the efficient administration of his or her  
10 responsibility for the implementation of the policies of  
11 the Board.

12 (11) Adopt rules, regulations, and policies necessary  
13 for the efficient operation of an academy.

14 (12) Establish criteria to be used in determining  
15 eligibility of applicants for enrollment in an academy. The  
16 criteria shall ensure adequate geographic, sexual, and  
17 ethnic representation.

18 (13) Determine subjects and extracurricular activities  
19 to be offered by an academy.

20 (14) Pay salaries and expenses, including, but not  
21 limited to, facilities, equipment, and supplies of the  
22 faculty and staff of an academy out of funds appropriated  
23 or otherwise made available for the operating and  
24 administrative expenses of the Board and an academy.

25 (15) Exercise budgetary responsibility and allocate  
26 for expenditure by an academy and programs under its

1 jurisdiction and all moneys appropriated or otherwise made  
2 available for purposes of the Board and of the academy.

3 (16) Prescribe and select for use in an academy free  
4 school books and other materials of instruction for  
5 children enrolled in the academy and programs under its  
6 jurisdiction for which the General Assembly provides  
7 funds.

8 (17) Prepare and adopt or approve programs of study and  
9 rules, bylaws, and regulations for the conduct of students  
10 and for the government of the school and programs under its  
11 jurisdiction.

12 (18) Employ personnel as may be needed, establish  
13 policies governing their employment and dismissal, and fix  
14 the amount of their compensation. In the employment,  
15 establishment of policies, and fixing of compensation, the  
16 Board may make no discrimination on account of sex, race,  
17 creed, color, or national origin.

18 Section 25. Academy property. Each academy shall be  
19 empowered to lease or purchase real and personal property on  
20 commercially reasonable terms for the use by the academy. Any  
21 leases or purchases of real or personal property, and any  
22 disposition of the property, by an academy shall be in  
23 compliance with the provisions of the Civil Administrative Code  
24 of Illinois and the State Property Control Act. Personal  
25 property acquired for use by an academy shall be inventoried

1 and disposed of in accordance with the State Property Control  
2 Act.

3 Section 30. Indemnification. Each academy, the Board, and  
4 its employees shall be represented and indemnified in certain  
5 civil law suits in accordance with the State Employee  
6 Indemnification Act. An academy or its officers or employees  
7 and the Board may not participate in the creation of any  
8 corporation, joint venture, partnership, association, or other  
9 organizational entity which exercises, expands, or enhances  
10 the powers, duties, or responsibilities of the academy, unless  
11 specifically authorized by the General Assembly. This Section  
12 does not restrict an academy from creating any organization  
13 entity that is within or a part of the academy.