

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 School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 29-3 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/29-3) (from Ch. 122, par. 29-3)

7 Sec. 29-3. Transportation in school districts. School  
8 boards of community consolidated districts, community unit  
9 districts, consolidated districts, consolidated high school  
10 districts, optional elementary unit districts, combined high  
11 school - unit districts, combined school districts if the  
12 combined district includes any district which was previously  
13 required to provide transportation, and any newly created  
14 elementary or high school districts resulting from a high  
15 school - unit conversion, a unit to dual conversion, or a  
16 multi-unit conversion if the newly created district includes  
17 any area that was previously required to provide transportation  
18 shall provide free transportation for pupils residing at a  
19 distance of one and one-half miles or more from any school to  
20 which they are assigned for attendance maintained within the  
21 district, except for those pupils for whom the school board  
22 shall certify to the State Board of Education that adequate  
23 transportation for the public is available.

1           For the purpose of this Act 1 1/2 miles distance shall be  
2 from the exit of the property where the pupil resides to the  
3 point where pupils are normally unloaded at the school  
4 attended; such distance shall be measured by determining the  
5 shortest distance on normally traveled roads or streets.

6           Such school board may comply with the provisions of this  
7 Section by providing free transportation for pupils to and from  
8 an assigned school and a pick-up point located not more than  
9 one and one-half miles from the home of each pupil assigned to  
10 such point.

11           For the purposes of this Act "adequate transportation for  
12 the public" shall be assumed to exist for such pupils as can  
13 reach school by walking, one way, along normally traveled roads  
14 or streets less than 1 1/2 miles irrespective of the distance  
15 the pupil is transported by public transportation.

16           In addition to the other requirements of this Section, each  
17 school board may provide free transportation for any pupil  
18 residing within 1 1/2 miles from the school attended where  
19 conditions are such that walking, either to or from the school  
20 to which a pupil is assigned for attendance or to or from a  
21 pick-up point or bus stop, constitutes a serious hazard to the  
22 safety of the pupil due to either (i) vehicular traffic or rail  
23 crossings or (ii) a course or pattern of criminal activity, as  
24 defined in Section 10 of the Illinois Streetgang Terrorism  
25 Omnibus Prevention Act. Such transportation shall not be  
26 provided if adequate transportation for the public is

1 available.

2 The determination as to what constitutes a serious safety  
3 hazard shall be made by the school board, in accordance with  
4 guidelines promulgated by the Illinois Department of  
5 Transportation regarding vehicular traffic or rail crossings  
6 or in accordance with guidelines regarding a course or pattern  
7 of criminal activity, as determined by the local law  
8 enforcement agency, in consultation with the State  
9 Superintendent of Education. A school board, on written  
10 petition of the parent or guardian of a pupil for whom adequate  
11 transportation for the public is alleged not to exist because  
12 the pupil is required to walk along normally traveled roads or  
13 streets where walking is alleged to constitute a serious safety  
14 hazard due to either (i) vehicular traffic or rail crossings or  
15 (ii) a course or pattern of criminal activity, or who is  
16 required to walk between the pupil's home and assigned school  
17 or between the pupil's home or assigned school and a pick-up  
18 point or bus stop along roads or streets where walking is  
19 alleged to constitute a serious safety hazard due to either (i)  
20 vehicular traffic or rail crossings or (ii) a course or pattern  
21 of criminal activity, shall conduct a study and make findings,  
22 which the Department of Transportation, with respect to  
23 vehicular traffic or rail crossings, or the State Board of  
24 Education, in consultation with the local law enforcement  
25 agency, with respect to a course or pattern of criminal  
26 activity, shall review and approve or disapprove as provided in

1 this Section, to determine whether a serious safety hazard  
2 exists as alleged in the petition. The Department of  
3 Transportation shall review the findings of the school board  
4 concerning vehicular traffic or rail crossings and shall  
5 approve or disapprove the school board's determination that a  
6 serious safety hazard exists within 30 days after the school  
7 board submits its findings to the Department of Transportation.  
8 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the local  
9 law enforcement agency, shall review the findings of the school  
10 board concerning a course or pattern of criminal activity and  
11 shall approve or disapprove the school board's determination  
12 that a serious safety hazard exists within 30 days after the  
13 school board submits its findings to the State Board. The  
14 school board shall annually review the conditions and determine  
15 whether or not the hazardous conditions remain unchanged. The  
16 State Superintendent of Education may request that the Illinois  
17 Department of Transportation or the local law enforcement  
18 agency verify that the conditions have not changed. No action  
19 shall lie against the school board, the State Superintendent of  
20 Education, ~~or~~ the Illinois Department of Transportation, the  
21 State Board of Education, or a local law enforcement agency for  
22 decisions made in accordance with this Section. The provisions  
23 of the Administrative Review Law and all amendments and  
24 modifications thereof and the rules adopted pursuant thereto  
25 shall apply to and govern all proceedings instituted for the  
26 judicial review of final administrative decisions of the

1 Department of Transportation, the State Board of Education, or  
2 a local law enforcement agency under this Section. At all  
3 points, except when otherwise mentioned in this Section, the  
4 local enforcement agency is authorized to determine what  
5 constitutes a course or pattern of criminal activity.

6 The changes made to this Section by this amendatory Act of  
7 the 100th General Assembly do not apply to a school district  
8 organized under Article 34 of this Code.

9 (Source: P.A. 94-439, eff. 8-4-05; 95-903, eff. 8-25-08.)

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
11 becoming law.