



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB3619

Introduced 2/22/2021, by Rep. Fred Crespo

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 805/3-80 new

Amends the Public Community College Act. Allows the board of trustees of a community college district to establish and offer a baccalaureate-level early childhood education program and confer a bachelor of applied science degree in early childhood education and a Professional Educator License with endorsements in early childhood education and early childhood special education under certain conditions. Provides for an application for approval from the Illinois Community College Board. Sets forth college requirements and prohibitions. Provides that a candidate for educator licensure must successfully complete applicable testing requirements prior to the issuance of an educator license and any endorsements. Provides for a statewide evaluation of such programs.

LRB102 14210 CMG 19562 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 5. The Public Community College Act is amended by
5 adding Section 3-80 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 805/3-80 new)

7 Sec. 3-80. Early childhood education bachelor of applied
8 science degree.

9 (a) A board of trustees may establish and offer a
10 baccalaureate-level early childhood education program and
11 confer a bachelor of applied science degree in early childhood
12 education and a Professional Educator License with
13 endorsements in early childhood education and early childhood
14 special education if all of the following conditions are met:

15 (1) The board meets all of the requirements as set
16 forth in subsection (b) of this Section and has been
17 approved by the State Board to offer a bachelor of applied
18 science degree in early childhood education.

19 (2) After the program has been approved by the State
20 Board, the Board of Higher Education shall consider the
21 program for approval in a manner consistent with new
22 bachelor's degree programs at public and private
23 universities in this State.

1 (3) The program has been approved by the State Board
2 of Education, pursuant to Section 21B-105 of the School
3 Code and administrative rules.

4 (4) The board has identified and documented, in
5 writing, unmet workforce needs in the subject area of the
6 baccalaureate degree to be offered. The board shall
7 publish on its Internet website and make publicly
8 available the documentation and shall present the
9 documentation to the State Board.

10 (5) The board meets all applicable accreditation
11 requirements of the Higher Learning Commission.

12 (6) The community college district shall offer and
13 maintain an associate degree in early childhood education
14 or a related field.

15 (b) The board shall demonstrate that the community college
16 district has the expertise, resources, and student interest to
17 establish and offer a baccalaureate-level early childhood
18 education program. An application for approval from the State
19 Board shall include, but is not limited to, all of the
20 following:

21 (1) The board shall describe the labor market need as
22 specified in paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of this
23 Section.

24 (2) The board shall describe the program's purpose,
25 its target population, related occupations, and career
26 paths.

1 (3) The board shall demonstrate the community college
2 has developed quality curricula that aligns with federal,
3 State, and local requirements and will prepare graduates
4 with the appropriate level of skill to meet their
5 educational goals.

6 (4) The board shall verify the community college has
7 the fiscal resources in place or has budgeted for
8 financial support for the program in a cost-effective
9 manner.

10 (5) The board shall identify and document the faculty
11 available for teaching the program, including the number
12 of full-time faculty anticipated to teach in the program,
13 and a description of their qualifications (including
14 highest degree earned), teaching experience, professional
15 experience, and licenses held. The board must also
16 indicate how faculty are to be evaluated.

17 (c) A community college district is prohibited from using
18 semester credit hours generated in a baccalaureate degree
19 program for grants received pursuant to Section 2-16.02 of
20 this Act.

21 (d) A community college offering educator licensure must
22 establish standards and procedures for the denial of
23 recommendation for licensure, in compliance with Section
24 21B-95 of the School Code.

25 (e) A candidate for educator licensure must successfully
26 complete the applicable testing requirements under Section

1 21B-30 of the School Code and any corresponding administrative
2 rules prior to the issuance of an educator license and any
3 endorsements.

4 (f) The State Board shall conduct a statewide evaluation
5 of all programs established under this Section. The results of
6 the evaluation shall be reported, in writing, on or before
7 July 1, 2028 to all of the following:

8 (1) The Board of Higher Education.

9 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

10 (3) The Minority Leader of the House of
11 Representatives.

12 (4) The President of the Senate.

13 (5) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

14 (6) The Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

15 The evaluation shall include, but is not limited to, all
16 of the following:

17 (A) The number of new programs established under this
18 Section, including information identifying applicants,
19 admissions, enrollments, demographic characteristics of
20 students, and degree recipients.

21 (B) The extent to which the programs established under
22 this Section fulfill identified workforce needs.

23 (C) Which community college districts applied for a
24 program but were denied and why were they denied.

25 (D) The cost of each program and the funding sources
26 that were used to finance the programs.

1 (E) Time-to-degree rates and completion rates for each
2 new program established under this Section.

3 (F) The extent to which the programs established under
4 this Section are in compliance with the requirements of
5 this Section.

6 Boards of trustees shall submit the information necessary
7 to conduct the evaluation required under this subsection (f),
8 as determined by the evaluators, to the State Board.