



95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

HB5493

by Rep. Jim Watson

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the School Code to encourage school boards to implement American Sign Language (ASL) courses into school foreign language curriculum in a manner deemed appropriate by the State Board of Education. Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. In provisions concerning admissions requirements, provides that ASL constitutes a foreign language for the purposes of meeting those requirements. Requires the governing board of each public university to award academic credit for the successful completion of any ASL course offered or approved by the university, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the university. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

LRB095 15721 RAS 41728 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds and declares the
3 following:

4 (a) Illinois has over one million deaf and hard of
5 hearing residents;

6 (b) American Sign Language (ASL) is a fully-developed,
7 visual-gestural language with distinct grammar, syntax,
8 and symbols and is one of hundreds of signed languages in
9 the world; and

10 (c) The American deaf community is a group of citizens
11 who are members of a unique culture who share ASL as their
12 common language; and

13 WHEREAS, The General Assembly hereby also declares the
14 purpose and intent of this amendatory Act to be as follows:

15 (a) To recognize ASL as the language of the American
16 deaf community; and

17 (b) To authorize and encourage public and independent
18 schools, including post-secondary schools, to offer ASL as
19 a course of study and to accept ASL credits as
20 foreign-language credits; therefore

21 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
22 **represented in the General Assembly:**

1 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Sections
2 10-20.46 and 34-18.37 as follows:

3 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.46 new)

4 Sec. 10-20.46. American Sign Language courses. School
5 boards are encouraged to implement American Sign Language
6 courses into school foreign language curriculum in a manner
7 deemed appropriate by the State Board of Education.

8 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.37 new)

9 Sec. 34-18.37. American Sign Language courses. The school
10 board is encouraged to implement American Sign Language courses
11 into school foreign language curriculum in a manner deemed
12 appropriate by the State Board of Education.

13 Section 10. The University of Illinois Act is amended by
14 changing Section 8 and by adding Section 40 as follows:

15 (110 ILCS 305/8) (from Ch. 144, par. 29)

16 Sec. 8. Admissions.

17 (a) No student shall be admitted to instruction in any of
18 the departments of the University who shall not have attained
19 to the age of fifteen (15) years, and who shall not previously
20 undergo a satisfactory examination in each of the branches
21 ordinarily taught in the common schools of the state.

22 (b) In addition, commencing in the fall of 1993, no new

1 student shall then or thereafter be admitted to instruction in
2 any of the departments or colleges of the University unless
3 such student also has satisfactorily completed:

4 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
5 the following 5 categories:

6 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
7 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
8 years may be collegiate level instruction;

9 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
10 and government);

11 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
12 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
13 fundamentals of computer programming);

14 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

15 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
16 shall be deemed to include American Sign Language,
17 music, vocational education or art;

18 (2) except that institutions may admit individual
19 applicants if the institution determines through
20 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
21 outcomes of the coursework taken, including vocational
22 education courses and courses taken in a charter school
23 established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the
24 applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially
25 equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be
26 acquired in the high school courses required for admission.

1 The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois shall
2 not discriminate in the University's admissions process
3 against an applicant for admission because of the
4 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
5 under Article 27A of the School Code. Institutions may also
6 admit 1) applicants who did not have an opportunity to
7 complete the minimum college preparatory curriculum in
8 high school, and 2) educationally disadvantaged applicants
9 who are admitted to the formal organized special assistance
10 programs that are tailored to the needs of such students,
11 providing that in either case, the institution
12 incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum
13 courses or other academic activities that compensate for
14 course deficiencies; and

15 (3) except that up to 3 of the 15 units of coursework
16 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
17 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
18 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
19 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
20 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

21 (c) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
22 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
23 coursework required by subsection (b).

24 (d) A student who has graduated from high school and has
25 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
26 shall not be required to take the high school level General

1 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
2 admission.

3 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

4 (110 ILCS 305/40 new)

5 Sec. 40. American Sign Language courses. The University
6 shall award academic credit for the successful completion of
7 any American Sign Language course offered or approved by the
8 University, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the
9 foreign language requirements of the University, except for
10 those requirements related to the content of a student's
11 academic major.

12 Section 15. The Southern Illinois University Management
13 Act is amended by changing Section 8e and by adding Section 25
14 as follows:

15 (110 ILCS 520/8e) (from Ch. 144, par. 658e)

16 Sec. 8e. Admissions.

17 (a) Commencing in the fall of 1993, no new student shall
18 then or thereafter be admitted to instruction in any of the
19 departments or colleges of the University unless such student
20 also has satisfactorily completed:

21 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
22 the following 5 categories:

23 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and

1 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
2 years may be collegiate level instruction;

3 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
4 and government);

5 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
6 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
7 fundamentals of computer programming);

8 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

9 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
10 shall be deemed to include American Sign Language,
11 music, vocational education or art;

12 (2) except that institutions may admit individual
13 applicants if the institution determines through
14 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
15 outcomes of the coursework taken, including vocational
16 education courses and courses taken in a charter school
17 established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the
18 applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially
19 equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be
20 acquired in the high school courses required for admission.
21 The Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University shall
22 not discriminate in the University's admissions process
23 against an applicant for admission because of the
24 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
25 under Article 27A of the School Code. Institutions may also
26 admit 1) applicants who did not have an opportunity to

1 complete the minimum college preparatory curriculum in
2 high school, and 2) educationally disadvantaged applicants
3 who are admitted to the formal organized special assistance
4 programs that are tailored to the needs of such students,
5 providing that in either case, the institution
6 incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum
7 courses or other academic activities that compensate for
8 course deficiencies; and

9 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
10 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
11 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
12 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
13 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
14 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

15 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
16 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
17 coursework required by subsection (a).

18 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
19 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
20 shall not be required to take the high school level General
21 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
22 admission.

23 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

24 (110 ILCS 520/25 new)

25 Sec. 25. American Sign Language courses. The University

1 shall award academic credit for the successful completion of
2 any American Sign Language course offered or approved by the
3 University, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the
4 foreign language requirements of the University, except for
5 those requirements related to the content of a student's
6 academic major.

7 Section 20. The Chicago State University Law is amended by
8 changing Section 5-85 and by adding Section 5-135 as follows:

9 (110 ILCS 660/5-85)

10 Sec. 5-85. Admission requirements.

11 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
12 of the departments or colleges of the Chicago State University
13 unless such student also has satisfactorily completed:

14 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
15 the following 5 categories:

16 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
17 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
18 years may be collegiate level instruction;

19 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
20 and government);

21 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
22 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
23 fundamentals of computer programming);

24 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

1 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
2 shall be deemed to include American Sign Language,
3 music, vocational education or art;

4 (2) except that Chicago State University may admit
5 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
6 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
7 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
8 and courses taken in a charter school established under
9 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
10 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
11 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
12 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
13 Trustees of Chicago State University shall not
14 discriminate in the University's admissions process
15 against an applicant for admission because of the
16 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
17 under Article 27A of the School Code. Chicago State
18 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
19 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
20 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
21 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
22 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
23 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
24 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
25 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
26 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

1 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
2 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
3 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
4 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
5 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
6 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

7 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
8 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
9 coursework required by subsection (a).

10 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
11 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
12 shall not be required to take the high school level General
13 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
14 admission.

15 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

16 (110 ILCS 660/5-135 new)

17 Sec. 5-135. American Sign Language courses. The University
18 shall award academic credit for the successful completion of
19 any American Sign Language course offered or approved by the
20 University, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the
21 foreign language requirements of the University, except for
22 those requirements related to the content of a student's
23 academic major.

24 Section 25. The Eastern Illinois University Law is amended

1 by changing Section 10-85 and by adding Section 10-135 as
2 follows:

3 (110 ILCS 665/10-85)

4 Sec. 10-85. Admission requirements.

5 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
6 of the departments or colleges of the Eastern Illinois
7 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
8 completed:

9 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
10 the following 5 categories:

11 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
12 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
13 years may be collegiate level instruction;

14 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
15 and government);

16 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
17 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
18 fundamentals of computer programming);

19 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

20 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
21 shall be deemed to include American Sign Language,
22 music, vocational education or art;

23 (2) except that Eastern Illinois University may admit
24 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
25 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the

1 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
2 and courses taken in a charter school established under
3 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
4 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
5 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
6 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
7 Trustees of Eastern Illinois University shall not
8 discriminate in the University's admissions process
9 against an applicant for admission because of the
10 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
11 under Article 27A of the School Code. Eastern Illinois
12 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
13 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
14 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
15 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
16 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
17 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
18 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
19 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
20 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

21 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
22 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
23 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
24 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
25 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
26 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

1 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
2 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
3 coursework required by subsection (a).

4 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
5 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
6 shall not be required to take the high school level General
7 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
8 admission.

9 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

10 (110 ILCS 665/10-135 new)

11 Sec. 10-135. American Sign Language courses. The
12 University shall award academic credit for the successful
13 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
14 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
15 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
16 University, except for those requirements related to the
17 content of a student's academic major.

18 Section 30. The Governors State University Law is amended
19 by changing Section 15-85 and by adding Section 15-135 as
20 follows:

21 (110 ILCS 670/15-85)

22 Sec. 15-85. Admission requirements.

23 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any

1 of the departments or colleges of the Governors State
2 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
3 completed:

4 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
5 the following 5 categories:

6 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
7 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
8 years may be collegiate level instruction;

9 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
10 and government);

11 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
12 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
13 fundamentals of computer programming);

14 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

15 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
16 shall be deemed to include American Sign Language,
17 music, vocational education or art;

18 (2) except that Governors State University may admit
19 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
20 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
21 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
22 and courses taken in a charter school established under
23 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
24 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
25 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
26 high school courses required for admission. The Board of

1 Trustees of Governors State University shall not
2 discriminate in the University's admissions process
3 against an applicant for admission because of the
4 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
5 under Article 27A of the School Code. Governors State
6 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
7 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
8 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
9 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
10 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
11 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
12 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
13 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
14 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

15 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
16 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
17 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
18 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
19 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
20 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

21 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
22 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
23 coursework required by subsection (a).

24 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
25 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
26 shall not be required to take the high school level General

1 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
2 admission.

3 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

4 (110 ILCS 670/15-135 new)

5 Sec. 15-135. American Sign Language courses. The
6 University shall award academic credit for the successful
7 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
8 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
9 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
10 University, except for those requirements related to the
11 content of a student's academic major.

12 Section 35. The Illinois State University Law is amended by
13 changing Section 20-85 and by adding Section 20-140 as follows:

14 (110 ILCS 675/20-85)

15 Sec. 20-85. Admission requirements.

16 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
17 of the departments or colleges of the Illinois State University
18 unless such student also has satisfactorily completed:

19 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
20 the following 5 categories:

21 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
22 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
23 years may be collegiate level instruction;

1 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
2 and government);

3 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
4 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
5 fundamentals of computer programming);

6 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

7 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
8 shall be deemed to include American Sign Language,
9 music, vocational education or art;

10 (2) except that Illinois State University may admit
11 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
12 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
13 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
14 and courses taken in a charter school established under
15 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
16 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
17 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
18 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
19 Trustees of Illinois State University shall not
20 discriminate in the University's admissions process
21 against an applicant for admission because of the
22 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
23 under Article 27A of the School Code. Illinois State
24 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
25 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
26 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally

1 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
2 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
3 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
4 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
5 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
6 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

7 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
8 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
9 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
10 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
11 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
12 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

13 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
14 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
15 coursework required by subsection (a).

16 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
17 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
18 shall not be required to take the high school level General
19 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
20 admission.

21 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

22 (110 ILCS 675/20-140 new)

23 Sec. 20-140. American Sign Language courses. The
24 University shall award academic credit for the successful
25 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or

1 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
2 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
3 University, except for those requirements related to the
4 content of a student's academic major.

5 Section 40. The Northeastern Illinois University Law is
6 amended by changing Section 25-85 and by adding Section 25-135
7 as follows:

8 (110 ILCS 680/25-85)

9 Sec. 25-85. Admission requirements.

10 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
11 of the departments or colleges of the Northeastern Illinois
12 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
13 completed:

14 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
15 the following 5 categories:

16 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
17 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
18 years may be collegiate level instruction;

19 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
20 and government);

21 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
22 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
23 fundamentals of computer programming);

24 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

1 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
2 shall be deemed to include American Sign Language,
3 music, vocational education or art;

4 (2) except that Northeastern Illinois University may
5 admit individual applicants if it determines through
6 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
7 outcomes of the coursework taken, including vocational
8 education courses and courses taken in a charter school
9 established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the
10 applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially
11 equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be
12 acquired in the high school courses required for admission.
13 The Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
14 shall not discriminate in the University's admissions
15 process against an applicant for admission because of the
16 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
17 under Article 27A of the School Code. Northeastern Illinois
18 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
19 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
20 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
21 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
22 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
23 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
24 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
25 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
26 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

1 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
2 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
3 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
4 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
5 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
6 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

7 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
8 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
9 coursework required by subsection (a).

10 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
11 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
12 shall not be required to take the high school level General
13 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
14 admission.

15 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

16 (110 ILCS 680/25-135 new)

17 Sec. 25-135. American Sign Language courses. The
18 University shall award academic credit for the successful
19 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
20 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
21 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
22 University, except for those requirements related to the
23 content of a student's academic major.

24 Section 45. The Northern Illinois University Law is amended

1 by changing Section 30-85 and by adding Section 30-145 as
2 follows:

3 (110 ILCS 685/30-85)

4 Sec. 30-85. Admission requirements.

5 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
6 of the departments or colleges of the Northern Illinois
7 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
8 completed:

9 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
10 the following 5 categories:

11 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
12 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
13 years may be collegiate level instruction;

14 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
15 and government);

16 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
17 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
18 fundamentals of computer programming);

19 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

20 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
21 shall be deemed to include American Sign Language,
22 music, vocational education or art;

23 (2) except that Northern Illinois University may admit
24 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
25 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the

1 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
2 and courses taken in a charter school established under
3 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
4 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
5 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
6 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
7 Trustees of Northern Illinois University shall not
8 discriminate in the University's admissions process
9 against an applicant for admission because of the
10 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
11 under Article 27A of the School Code. Northern Illinois
12 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
13 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
14 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
15 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
16 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
17 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
18 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
19 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
20 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

21 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
22 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
23 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
24 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
25 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
26 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

1 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
2 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
3 coursework required by subsection (a).

4 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
5 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
6 shall not be required to take the high school level General
7 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
8 admission.

9 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

10 (110 ILCS 685/30-145 new)

11 Sec. 30-145. American Sign Language courses. The
12 University shall award academic credit for the successful
13 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
14 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
15 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
16 University, except for those requirements related to the
17 content of a student's academic major.

18 Section 50. The Western Illinois University Law is amended
19 by changing Section 35-85 and by adding Section 35-140 as
20 follows:

21 (110 ILCS 690/35-85)

22 Sec. 35-85. Admission requirements.

23 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any

1 of the departments or colleges of the Western Illinois
2 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
3 completed:

4 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
5 the following 5 categories:

6 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
7 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
8 years may be collegiate level instruction;

9 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
10 and government);

11 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
12 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
13 fundamentals of computer programming);

14 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

15 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which
16 shall be deemed to include American Sign Language,
17 music, vocational education or art;

18 (2) except that Western Illinois University may admit
19 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
20 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
21 coursework taken, including vocational education courses
22 and courses taken in a charter school established under
23 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
24 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
25 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
26 high school courses required for admission. The Board of

1 Trustees of Western Illinois University shall not
2 discriminate in the University's admissions process
3 against an applicant for admission because of the
4 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
5 under Article 27A of the School Code. Western Illinois
6 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
7 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
8 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
9 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
10 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
11 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
12 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
13 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
14 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

15 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
16 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
17 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
18 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
19 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
20 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

21 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
22 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
23 coursework required by subsection (a).

24 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
25 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT
26 shall not be required to take the high school level General

1 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to
2 admission.

3 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

4 (110 ILCS 690/35-140 new)

5 Sec. 35-140. American Sign Language courses. The
6 University shall award academic credit for the successful
7 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or
8 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the
9 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the
10 University, except for those requirements related to the
11 content of a student's academic major.

12 Section 55. The Public Community College Act is amended by
13 adding Section 3-29.3 as follows:

14 (110 ILCS 805/3-29.3 new)

15 Sec. 3-29.3. American Sign Language courses. To adopt
16 regulations for the awarding of academic credit for the
17 successful completion of any American Sign Language course
18 offered or approved by a community college, which may be
19 applied toward the satisfaction of any foreign language
20 requirements of the community college, except for those
21 requirements related to the content of a student's academic
22 major.

1 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding
2 Section 8.32 as follows:

3 (30 ILCS 805/8.32 new)

4 Sec. 8.32. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8
5 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the
6 implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of
7 the 95th General Assembly.

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6	110 ILCS 305/40 new	
7	110 ILCS 520/8e	from Ch. 144, par. 658e
8	110 ILCS 520/25 new	
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