



Sen. William Delgado

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1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 363

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 363 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 34-18.37 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.37 new)

7 Sec. 34-18.37. Chicago Educational Facility Task Force.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds all of the following:

9 (1) The Illinois Constitution recognizes that a
10 "fundamental goal of the People of the State is the
11 educational development of all persons to the limits of
12 their capacities".

13 (2) Quality educational facilities are essential for
14 fostering the maximum educational development of all
15 persons through their educational experience from
16 pre-kindergarten through high school.

1 (3) The public school is a major institution in our
2 communities. Public schools offer resources and
3 opportunities for the children of this State who seek and
4 deserve a quality education, but also benefit the entire
5 community that seeks improvement through access to
6 education.

7 (4) The equitable and efficient use of available
8 facility-related resources among different schools and
9 among racial, ethnic, income, and disability groups is
10 essential to maximize the development of quality public
11 educational facilities for all children, youth, and
12 adults. The factors that impact the equitable and efficient
13 use of facility-related resources vary according to the
14 needs of each school community. Therefore, decisions that
15 impact school facilities should include the input of the
16 school community to the greatest extent possible.

17 (5) School openings, school closings, school
18 consolidations, school turnarounds, school phase-outs,
19 school construction, school repairs, school
20 modernizations, school boundary changes, and other related
21 school facility decisions often have a profound impact on
22 the provision of public education in a community. In order
23 to minimize the negative impact of school facility
24 decisions on the community, these decisions should be
25 implemented according to a clear, system-wide criteria and
26 with the significant involvement of local school councils,

1 parents, educators, and the community.

2 (6) The General Assembly has previously stated that it
3 intended to make the individual school in the City of
4 Chicago the essential unit for educational governance and
5 improvement and to place the primary responsibility for
6 school governance and improvement in the hands of parents,
7 teachers, and community residents at each school. A school
8 facility policy must be consistent with these principles.

9 (b) In order to ensure that school facility-related
10 decisions are made with the input of the community and reflect
11 fiscally responsible criteria, a Chicago Educational Facility
12 Task Force is established.

13 (c) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

14 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives'
15 Elementary & Secondary Education Committee appointed by
16 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

17 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives'
18 Elementary & Secondary Education Committee appointed by
19 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

20 (3) Two members of the Senate's Education Committee
21 appointed by the President of the Senate.

22 (4) Two members of the Senate's Education Committee
23 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

24 (5) Two representatives of school community
25 organizations with past involvement in school facility
26 issues appointed by the Speaker of the House.

1 (6) Two representatives of school community
2 organizations with past involvement in school facility
3 issues appointed by the President of the Senate.

4 (7) The chief executive officer of the school district
5 or his or her designee.

6 (8) One representative from the union representing
7 teachers in the district's schools.

8 (9) One representative from an organization
9 representing principals in the district's schools.

10 (d) The Speaker of the House shall appoint one of the
11 appointed House members as a co-chairperson of the Task Force.
12 The President of the Senate shall appoint one of the appointed
13 Senate members as a co-chairperson of the Task Force. Members
14 appointed by the legislative leaders shall be appointed for the
15 duration of the Task Force; in the event of a vacancy, the
16 appointment to fill the vacancy shall be made by the
17 legislative leader of the same chamber and party as the leader
18 who made the original appointment.

19 (e) The Task Force may gather evidence in the form of
20 testimony, documents, or other materials.

21 (f) The Task Force, with the assistance of independent
22 experts, shall analyze data and other information with respect
23 to Chicago school openings, school closings, school
24 consolidations, school turnarounds, school phase-outs, school
25 construction, school repairs, school modernizations, school
26 boundary changes, and the impact of other related school

1 facility decisions on students. The Task Force shall consult
2 with interested stakeholders, including public officials,
3 about facility issues and their related costs. The Task Force
4 shall also examine relevant best practices from other school
5 systems for addressing school facility-related issues. The
6 Task Force shall allow opportunities for input from local
7 stakeholders through hearings, focus groups, and interviews.

8 (g) The Task Force shall complete a draft policy. This
9 policy may establish significant decision-making roles for key
10 stakeholders, require clear criteria or processes for
11 establishing criteria for making school facility decisions,
12 and include criteria for school openings, school closings,
13 school consolidations, school turnarounds, school phase-outs,
14 school construction, school repairs, school modernizations,
15 school boundary changes, and other related school facility
16 decisions, including the encouragement of multiple community
17 uses for school space.

18 (h) The Task Force shall prepare the draft policy on or
19 before October 30, 2009. The draft policy must be posted on the
20 school district's Internet website.

21 (i) The Task Force shall hold hearings in separate areas of
22 the school district to obtain comments and suggestions on the
23 draft policy. The final hearing shall take place no later than
24 30 days prior to the completion of the final draft policy. The
25 final draft policy must be published on the school district's
26 Internet website at least 7 days before the final draft policy

1 is submitted to the General Assembly and the Governor under
2 subsection (j) of this Section.

3 (j) The Task Force shall submit the final draft policy to
4 the Governor and the General Assembly, as provided in Section
5 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization Act, on or before
6 January 1, 2010. The Task Force may submit other reports as it
7 deems appropriate.

8 (k) The final draft policy may be introduced in the form of
9 legislation.

10 (l) The State Board of Education shall provide
11 administrative support to the Task Force.

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
13 becoming law.".