



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB2787

by Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2405/10

from Ch. 23, par. 3441

Amends the Disabled Persons Rehabilitation Act. Provides that in consultation with the Department of Human Services, licensed physicians, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists shall notify a parent or guardian of a patient diagnosed with a hearing disability of the educational opportunities available for children with hearing disabilities at the Illinois School for the Deaf. Provides that in consultation with the Department of Human Services, licensed physicians and optometrists shall notify a parent or guardian of a patient diagnosed with a visual disability of the educational opportunities available for children with visual disabilities at the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired. Requires the Department to adopt any rules necessary to implement this provision.

LRB099 10350 KTG 30577 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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

4 Section 5. The Disabled Persons Rehabilitation Act is
5 amended by changing Section 10 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2405/10) (from Ch. 23, par. 3441)

7 Sec. 10. Residential schools; visual and hearing
8 handicaps.

9 (a) The Department of Human Services shall operate
10 residential schools for the education of children with visual
11 and hearing handicaps who are unable to take advantage of the
12 regular educational facilities provided in the community, and
13 shall provide in connection therewith such academic,
14 vocational, and related services as may be required. Children
15 shall be eligible for admission to these schools only after
16 proper diagnosis and evaluation, in accordance with procedures
17 prescribed by the Department.

18 (a-5) The Superintendent of the Illinois School for the
19 Deaf shall be the chief executive officer of, and shall be
20 responsible for the day to day operations of, the School, and
21 shall obtain educational and professional employees who are
22 certified by the Illinois State Board of Education or licensed
23 by the appropriate agency or entity to which licensing

1 authority has been delegated, as well as all other employees of
2 the School, subject to the provisions of the Personnel Code and
3 any applicable collective bargaining agreement. The
4 Superintendent shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with
5 the advice and consent of the Senate. In the case of a vacancy
6 in the office of Superintendent during the recess of the
7 Senate, the Governor shall make a temporary appointment until
8 the next meeting of the Senate, when the Governor shall
9 nominate some person to fill the office, and any person so
10 nominated who is confirmed by the Senate shall hold office
11 during the remainder of the term and until his or her successor
12 is appointed and qualified. The Superintendent shall hold
13 office (i) for a term expiring on June 30 of 2015, and every 4
14 years thereafter and (ii) until the Superintendent's successor
15 is appointed and qualified. The Superintendent shall devote his
16 or her full time to the duties of the office, shall not serve
17 in any other capacity during his or her term of office, and
18 shall receive such compensation as the Governor shall
19 determine. The Superintendent shall have an administrative
20 certificate with a superintendent endorsement as provided for
21 under Section 21-7.1 of the School Code, and shall have degrees
22 in both educational administration and deaf education,
23 together with at least 15 years of experience in either deaf
24 education, the administration of deaf education, or a
25 combination of the 2.

26 (a-10) The Superintendent of the Illinois School for the

1 Visually Impaired shall be the chief executive officer of, and
2 shall be responsible for the day to day operations of, the
3 School, and shall obtain educational and professional
4 employees who are certified by the Illinois State Board of
5 Education or licensed by the appropriate agency or entity to
6 which licensing authority has been delegated, as well as all
7 other employees of the School, subject to the provisions of the
8 Personnel Code and any applicable collective bargaining
9 agreement. The Superintendent shall be appointed by the
10 Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. In
11 the case of a vacancy in the office of Superintendent during
12 the recess of the Senate, the Governor shall make a temporary
13 appointment until the next meeting of the Senate, when the
14 Governor shall nominate some person to fill the office, and any
15 person so nominated who is confirmed by the Senate shall hold
16 office during the remainder of the term and until his or her
17 successor is appointed and qualified. The Superintendent shall
18 hold office (i) for a term expiring on June 30 of 2015, and
19 every 4 years thereafter and (ii) until the Superintendent's
20 successor is appointed and qualified. The Superintendent shall
21 devote his or her full time to the duties of the office, shall
22 not serve in any other capacity during his or her term of
23 office, and shall receive such compensation as the Governor
24 shall determine. The Superintendent shall have an
25 administrative certificate with a superintendent endorsement
26 as provided for under Section 21-7.1 of the School Code, and

1 shall have degrees in both educational administration and blind
2 or visually impaired education, together with at least 15 years
3 of experience in either blind or visually impaired education,
4 the administration of blind or visually impaired education, or
5 a combination of the 2.

6 (b) In administering the Illinois School for the Deaf, the
7 Department shall adopt an admission policy which permits day or
8 residential enrollment, when resources are sufficient, of
9 children with hearing handicaps who are able to take advantage
10 of the regular educational facilities provided in the community
11 and thus unqualified for admission under subsection (a). In
12 doing so, the Department shall establish an annual deadline by
13 which shall be completed the enrollment of children qualified
14 under subsection (a) for admission to the Illinois School for
15 the Deaf. After the deadline, the Illinois School for the Deaf
16 may enroll other children with hearing handicaps at the request
17 of their parents or guardians if the Department determines
18 there are sufficient resources to meet their needs as well as
19 the needs of children enrolled before the deadline and children
20 qualified under subsection (a) who may be enrolled after the
21 deadline on an emergency basis. The Department shall adopt any
22 rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this
23 subsection.

24 In consultation with the Department, physicians licensed
25 under the Medical Practice Act of 1987 and speech-language
26 pathologists and audiologists licensed under the Illinois

1 Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act shall
2 notify a parent or guardian of a patient diagnosed with a
3 hearing disability of the educational opportunities available
4 for children with hearing disabilities at the Illinois School
5 for the Deaf. The Department shall adopt any rules necessary to
6 implement this provision.

7 (c) In administering the Illinois School for the Visually
8 Impaired, the Department shall adopt an admission policy that
9 permits day or residential enrollment, when resources are
10 sufficient, of children with visual handicaps who are able to
11 take advantage of the regular educational facilities provided
12 in the community and thus unqualified for admission under
13 subsection (a). In doing so, the Department shall establish an
14 annual deadline by which the enrollment of children qualified
15 under subsection (a) for admission to the Illinois School for
16 the Visually Impaired shall be completed. After the deadline,
17 the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired may enroll other
18 children with visual handicaps at the request of their parents
19 or guardians if the Department determines there are sufficient
20 resources to meet their needs as well as the needs of children
21 enrolled before the deadline and children qualified under
22 subsection (a) who may be enrolled after the deadline on an
23 emergency basis. The Department shall adopt any rules and
24 regulations necessary for the implementation of this
25 subsection.

26 In consultation with the Department, physicians licensed

1 under the Medical Practice Act of 1987 and optometrists
2 licensed under the Illinois Optometric Practice Act of 1987
3 shall notify a parent or guardian of a patient diagnosed with a
4 visual disability of the educational opportunities available
5 for children with visual disabilities at the Illinois School
6 for the Visually Impaired. The Department shall adopt any rules
7 necessary to implement this provision.

8 (Source: P.A. 97-625, eff. 11-28-11.)