



Rep. Tracy Katz Muhl

**Filed: 3/18/2025**

10400HB3717ham001

LRB104 11344 LNS 23972 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 3717

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 3717 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Findings. The General Assembly finds the  
5 following:

6 (1) Four-year degrees in applied fields of study are  
7 of increasing importance in enabling individuals to  
8 qualify for and obtain jobs.

9 (2) It is a priority in this State to promote  
10 equitable access and afford the citizens in this State,  
11 particularly underserved student populations and those in  
12 rural areas of this State, greater access to higher  
13 education.

14 (3) Research has shown the following:

15 (A) Most students attend college within 50 miles  
16 of their home, and many Illinois residents live  
17 outside of commuting distance to a public institution

1 of higher education.

2 (B) In states where a community college  
3 baccalaureate program has been implemented, typical  
4 graduates are older, are working, or have family  
5 responsibilities that preclude them from attending  
6 traditional baccalaureate programs.

7 (C) Community college baccalaureate graduates are  
8 often more racially diverse than counterparts in  
9 similar programs of study.

10 (4) Community colleges can help fill the gaps in this  
11 State's higher education system by granting baccalaureate  
12 degrees to meet the growing demand for a skilled workforce  
13 by increasing access and reducing costs for students.

14 (5) It is in this State's interest to enable community  
15 colleges to seek authorization to offer baccalaureate  
16 degrees.

17 (6) Baccalaureate degree programs offered pursuant to  
18 this Act do not otherwise alter the role and mission of a  
19 public community college. Nothing in this Act is intended  
20 to reduce the State's commitment to improving associate to  
21 baccalaureate program transfer pathways for Illinois  
22 students.

23 Section 5. The Public Community College Act is amended by  
24 adding Section 3-29.28 as follows:

1 (110 ILCS 805/3-29.28 new)

2 Sec. 3-29.28. Baccalaureate degree program.

3 (a) A board of trustees may establish and offer a  
4 baccalaureate degree program and confer a bachelor's degree if  
5 all the following conditions are met:

6 (1) The board of trustees meets all of the  
7 requirements as set forth in subsection (b) of this  
8 Section and has been approved by the State Board to offer a  
9 bachelor's degree.

10 (2) After the program has been approved by the State  
11 Board, the Board of Higher Education shall consider the  
12 program for approval in a manner consistent with new  
13 bachelor's degree programs at public and private  
14 universities in this State.

15 (3) The board of trustees has identified and  
16 documented, in writing, unmet workforce needs, including  
17 the number of potential students and workers necessary to  
18 meet those needs, in the region served by the community  
19 college in the subject area of the baccalaureate degree  
20 program to be offered. The board of trustees shall publish  
21 the documentation on the community college district's  
22 website, make the documentation publicly available, and  
23 shall present the documentation to the State Board.

24 (4) The community college shall hold an applicable  
25 accreditation and be approved to offer baccalaureate  
26 degrees by the Higher Learning Commission.

1           (5) The board of trustees shall demonstrate how the  
2           baccalaureate degree program will demonstrate improved  
3           racial and socioeconomic equity in student access,  
4           enrollment, and completion.

5           (6) Tuition and fees per credit hour for the third and  
6           fourth years of a 4-year baccalaureate program may not  
7           exceed 150% of the tuition and fees per credit hour of  
8           related lower-division course tuition and fees and the  
9           tuition charged a student who is a State resident shall  
10           not exceed the amount that the student was charged at the  
11           time he or she first entered the upper division program.

12           (b) The board of trustees of the community college shall  
13           demonstrate they have the expertise, resources, and student  
14           interest to offer a baccalaureate degree. An application for  
15           approval from the State Board shall include, but is not  
16           limited to, all of the following:

17           (1) The community college shall describe the  
18           employment goals for those individuals that complete the  
19           baccalaureate program, including the types of jobs and  
20           career paths for which the program will train graduates.

21           (2) The community college shall describe how the  
22           proposed baccalaureate degree program addresses an unmet  
23           workforce need as specified in paragraph (3) of subsection  
24           (a). Labor market need shall include, but not be limited  
25           to, anticipated annual earnings of degree holders and  
26           current number of related employment vacancies within the

1       community college's district.

2       (3) The community college shall describe how the  
3       baccalaureate degree program will not unnecessarily  
4       duplicate a degree program offered by other institutions  
5       of higher education in the community college's district.

6       (4) The community college shall provide evidence that  
7       it has budgeted for financial support for the program in a  
8       cost-effective manner. This shall include, but not be  
9       limited to, faculty costs, administrator costs, other  
10       personnel costs, equipment costs, library costs, and other  
11       facilities and instructional costs as directed by the  
12       State Board. The community college shall also demonstrate  
13       that it has the infrastructure to support the program.

14       (5) The community college shall provide information  
15       demonstrating how student demand supports the  
16       establishment of the baccalaureate program. The community  
17       college shall also describe the target population of the  
18       proposed program.

19       (6) The community college shall describe what similar  
20       programs are being offered by the community college and  
21       other training providers within its district.

22       (7) The community college shall provide a plan for  
23       attracting, recruiting, retaining, and completing a  
24       diverse group of students.

25       (8) The community college shall describe how it has  
26       developed quality curricula that aligns with federal,

1       State, and local requirements, is responsive to local  
2       workforce needs, and will prepare graduates with the  
3       appropriate level of skill to meet their educational and  
4       employment goals.

5       (9) The community college shall document the  
6       availability of faculty for teaching the program,  
7       including the number of full-time faculty anticipated to  
8       teach in the program, a description of the faculty's  
9       qualifications, including the highest degree earned,  
10      teaching experience, professional experience, and licenses  
11      held by the faculty. The board of trustees shall also  
12      indicate anticipated market salaries for each faculty  
13      position and how faculty are to be evaluated.

14      (c) The board of trustees of a community college may  
15      demonstrate that the baccalaureate degree program is built on  
16      existing associate degree programs and that the baccalaureate  
17      degree program prepares graduates for professional and  
18      technical employment and opportunity to matriculate to  
19      graduate degree programs, when applicable.

20      (d) A community college is prohibited from using semester  
21      credit hours generated in a baccalaureate degree program for  
22      grants received pursuant to Section 2-16.02.

23      (e) The board of trustees of a community college  
24      developing a baccalaureate degree program located in the same  
25      community college district as a campus of any other  
26      institution of higher education shall notify those

1 institutions of higher education at least 60 days before  
2 submitting the application under subsection (b) to the State  
3 Board. No later than 60 days after the date the board of  
4 trustees submits the notice, the public institutions of higher  
5 education may provide a written response, which may include a  
6 proposal for the institution of higher education to meet the  
7 programmatic need through a partnership agreement, to the  
8 State Board for its review. Despite having the opportunity to  
9 submit a written response to the State Board for  
10 consideration, no institution of higher education has the  
11 authority to prevent a community college from offering a  
12 baccalaureate degree program.

13 (f) A community college that offers a baccalaureate degree  
14 program shall submit an annual report to the State Board and  
15 Board of Higher Education, that shall include all the  
16 following:

17 (1) The total number of students pursuing a bachelor's  
18 degree at the community college pursuant to this Section.

19 (2) The total number of applied bachelor's degrees  
20 completed at the community college.

21 (3) Workforce data showing demand for the  
22 baccalaureate degree programs offered at the community  
23 college.

24 (4) The average cost of tuition and fees per credit  
25 hour for the bachelor's degrees offered at the community  
26 college, as well as the average cost of tuition and fees

1 per credit hour for lower division coursework.

2 (5) If applicable, the pass rates for statewide and  
3 national licensure exams compared to the State average.

4 (g) The State Board and the Board of Higher Education  
5 shall jointly conduct a statewide evaluation of all  
6 baccalaureate degree programs established under this Section.  
7 The results of the evaluation shall be reported, in writing,  
8 on or before 5 years after the effective date of this  
9 amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly to all of the  
10 following, in addition to being made publicly available  
11 online:

12 (1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

13 (2) The Minority Leader of the House of  
14 Representatives.

15 (3) The President of the Senate.

16 (4) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

17 (5) The Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

18 The evaluation shall include, but is not limited to, all  
19 of the following:

20 (A) All baccalaureate degree programs implemented.

21 (B) Information identifying number of applicants,  
22 admissions, enrollments, mode of delivery, demographic  
23 characteristics of students, and degree recipients.

24 (C) The extent to which each baccalaureate degree  
25 program established under this Section fulfills identified  
26 workforce demands that require 4-year baccalaureate

1 degrees.

2 (D) Information on the pace of employment of students  
3 and the subsequent job placement of graduates.

4 (E) The total cost broken down by major expenditure of  
5 each baccalaureate degree program and the funding sources  
6 used to finance each program.

7 (F) For each baccalaureate degree program, the costs  
8 to students, the amount of financial aid offered, and the  
9 student debt levels of graduates.

10 (G) Time-to-degree rates, retention rates, and  
11 completion rates for each new baccalaureate degree program  
12 established under this Section.

13 (H) The extent to which an applied baccalaureate  
14 degree program established under this Section is in  
15 compliance with the requirements of this Section.

16 (I) The extent to which the status of any partnership  
17 agreements previously or presently maintained with other  
18 State institutions of higher learning, including  
19 enrollments and reasons for the dissolution of such  
20 agreements if they have been dissolved due to the creation  
21 of a new baccalaureate degree program.

22 The board of trustees of a community college shall submit  
23 the information necessary to conduct the evaluation required  
24 under this subsection, as determined by the evaluators, to the  
25 State Board and the Board of Higher Education."