



Rep. Edgar González, Jr.

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10400HB5503ham001

LRB104 20646 LNS 36785 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5503

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 5503 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 22-28 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/22-28 new)

7 Sec. 22-28. Adult Workforce High School Diploma Program.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "Academic skill intake assessment" means a  
10 criterion-referenced assessment of numeracy and literacy  
11 skills with high reliability and validity as determined by  
12 third-party research, which may be administered in person or  
13 online.

14 "Adult Workforce High School Diploma Program" or "Program"  
15 means the Program established under this Section.

16 "Approved Program provider" means an eligible Program

1 provider that applies to participate in the Program, is  
2 approved by the Board to administer the Program, and agrees to  
3 meet all Program requirements.

4 "Average cost per graduate" means the average cost per  
5 graduate calculated in accordance with subsection (g).

6 "Board" means the Illinois Community College Board.

7 "Cohort" means all students who enter the Program between  
8 July 1 and June 30 of each Program year.

9 "Eligible applicant" means: a community college  
10 established and operating under the authority of the Public  
11 Community College Act; a nonprofit entity in partnership with  
12 a regional superintendent of schools; a third-party entity  
13 that has a demonstrated history of providing services to adult  
14 learners whose educational and training opportunities have  
15 been limited by educational disadvantages, disabilities, and  
16 challenges; the chief administrator of an intermediate service  
17 center that has the authority, under rules adopted by the  
18 State Board of Education, to issue a high school diploma; or a  
19 school district organized under Article 34. In order to be an  
20 eligible applicant, an entity, other than a school district  
21 organized under Article 34, must provide evidence or other  
22 documentation that it is or has been unable to establish an  
23 agreement with a secondary or unit school district in which  
24 the eligible applicant is located to provide a program in  
25 which students who successfully complete the program can  
26 receive a high school diploma from their school district of

1 residence.

2 "Eligible student" means a person ineligible for  
3 reenrollment under subsection (b) of Section 26-2 and 34 CFR  
4 300.102 who resides in this State, has not attained a high  
5 school diploma or its recognized equivalent, who requires 10  
6 units of credit or less to graduate under the requirements of  
7 Sections 27-605, 27-610, and 27-615.

8 "Employability skills certification" means a certificate  
9 earned by demonstrating professional nontechnical skills  
10 through assessment and includes, but is not limited to, the  
11 program standards of the United States Department of Labor's  
12 Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace  
13 Success program.

14 "Graduation rate" means the graduation rate calculated in  
15 accordance with subsection (h).

16 "Measurement period" means the 2-year period beginning  
17 July 1 of the year the cohort begins through June 30 of the  
18 subsequent fiscal year.

19 "Milestones" means measures of student progress for which  
20 funds are disbursed to an approved Program provider.

21 "Program funding" means funding received by an approved  
22 Program provider.

23 "Program year" means the period beginning on July 1 of  
24 each year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

25 "Transcript evaluation" means a documented summary of  
26 credits earned in a previous public or nonpublic, accredited

1 high school compared with this State's requirements to earn a  
2 high school diploma.

3 "Workforce credential" means a third-party credential that  
4 either (i) is a part of a sequence of credentials that can be  
5 accumulated over time to build an individual's qualifications  
6 to advance along a career pathway and results in a certificate  
7 or (ii) verifies an individual's qualifications or competence  
8 and is issued by a third party with the relevant authority to  
9 issue the credential.

10 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Board shall establish an  
11 outcome-based Adult Workforce High School Diploma Program to  
12 allow an eligible student to qualify for enrollment in the  
13 Program, and, upon successful completion of the Program, to be  
14 awarded a high school diploma.

15 (c) An eligible applicant is authorized to design a high  
16 school diploma program for adult learners, to be approved by  
17 the Board prior to implementation. A third-party eligible  
18 applicant shall operate this program only within the  
19 jurisdictional authority of the regional superintendent of  
20 schools, the chief administrator of an intermediate service  
21 center, a community college district, a community-based  
22 organization, or a school district organized under Article 34  
23 with whom the eligible applicant has entered into a  
24 partnership.

25 (d) The Board shall approve Program providers to  
26 administer the Program as follows:

1           (1) not later than August 15 of each year, the Board  
2           shall make available an application for eligible  
3           applicants to apply to become an approved Program  
4           provider;

5           (2) not later than September 15 of each year, the  
6           Board shall review applications, approve Program providers  
7           that meet the requirements set forth in this Section, and  
8           make available a list of approved Program providers on the  
9           Board's public website; and

10           (3) an approved Program provider shall be authorized  
11           to begin enrolling eligible students upon being approved  
12           by the Board as an approved Program provider.

13           (e) An approved Program provider shall:

14           (1) be accredited by:

15                   (A) the Higher Learning Commission; or

16                   (B) hold an active accreditation from one of the  
17           United States Department of Education's regional  
18           accreditors, including:

19                   (i) the Middle States Commission on Higher  
20           Education;

21                   (ii) the New England Association of Schools  
22           and Colleges;

23                   (iii) the Higher Learning Commission;

24                   (iv) the Northwest Commission on Colleges and  
25           Universities;

26                   (v) the Southern Association of Colleges and

1 Schools Commission on Colleges;

2 (vi) the WASC Senior College and University  
3 Commission;

4 (vii) the Western Association of Schools and  
5 Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and  
6 Junior Colleges; or

7 (viii) any successor entities or  
8 consolidations of these regional accreditors,  
9 including Cognia; and

10 (2) offer the following to an eligible student at no  
11 cost:

12 (A) an academic skill intake assessment and  
13 transcript evaluation;

14 (B) a documented plan that includes the  
15 requirements for the student to complete the Program  
16 and earn a high school diploma;

17 (C) remedial education services in numeracy and  
18 literacy;

19 (D) a course catalog that includes all courses  
20 necessary to earn a high school diploma;

21 (E) one or more programs through which the student  
22 can earn a workforce credential;

23 (F) one or more programs through which the student  
24 can earn an employability skills certification;

25 (G) one or more courses that help the student  
26 enter or advance within a specific occupation or

1           occupational cluster; and

2                   (H) all courses necessary to meet the requirements  
3                   to earn a high school diploma.

4           If an adult over the age of 22 does not meet enrollment  
5           requirements for an approved program provider, the provider  
6           shall provide the adult learner with resources detailing all  
7           other adult education program options offered by the State.

8           Third-party entities seeking approved program provider  
9           status must have compliance with paragraphs (1) and (2),  
10           provide proof of external review of instructional and course  
11           design, and be certified by nonprofit B Labs with active B Corp  
12           Certification.

13           (f) An approved Program provider must meet the following  
14           standards for each cohort at the conclusion of each cohort  
15           measurement period:

16                   (1) have a graduation rate of not less than 50%  
17                   beginning with the second program cohort; and

18                   (2) have an average cost per graduate of not more than  
19                   \$7,000.

20           If an approved Program provider fails to meet the  
21           standards under paragraphs (1) and (2), the Board shall place  
22           the approved Program provider on probationary status for the  
23           remainder of the Program year. If an approved Program provider  
24           fails to meet the standards under paragraphs (1) and (2) by the  
25           end of the subsequent Program year, the approved Program  
26           provider may no longer be an approved Program provider.

1       (g) The average cost per graduate shall be calculated by  
2 dividing the total Program funding disbursed to an approved  
3 Program provider for a cohort during the period from the  
4 beginning of the cohort through the end of the measurement  
5 period by the total number of students in that cohort who  
6 earned a high school diploma during the measurement period.

7       (h) The graduation rate shall be calculated by dividing  
8 the number of students in a cohort who earned a high school  
9 diploma during the measurement period by the number of  
10 students in the cohort for which an approved Program provider  
11 has received Program funding.

12       (i) The Board is authorized to retain 2% of Program funds  
13 for administrative costs and disburse any remaining funds  
14 appropriated by the General Assembly to approved Program  
15 providers based on milestones reached by students in amounts  
16 not to exceed:

17           (1) for the completion of each half unit of high  
18 school credit if such credit is required to earn a high  
19 school diploma, \$275;

20           (2) for each employability skills certification earned  
21 by a student, \$275;

22           (3) for each workforce credential earned by a student  
23 if the credential requires not more than 50 hours of  
24 training, \$275;

25           (4) for each workforce credential earned by a student  
26 if the credential requires more than 50 but not more than

1       100 hours of training, \$550;

2           (5) for each workforce credential earned by a student  
3       if the credential requires more than 100 hours of  
4       training, \$825; or

5           (6) for each high school diploma earned by a student,  
6       \$1,100.

7       In order to receive the funds provided for in this  
8       subsection, an approved Program provider shall, no later than  
9       the tenth day of each month, submit to the Board a report that  
10      includes all milestones met by students in the previous month.  
11      An approved Program provider shall report the number of  
12      enrolled students for whom invoices have been submitted and  
13      the number of enrolled students for whom invoices have not  
14      been submitted in the monthly invoices submitted under this  
15      subsection. The Board shall pay approved Program providers in  
16      the order in which invoices are received until all available  
17      moneys are exhausted.

18      The Board shall provide a written update to the approved  
19      Program providers on or before the last calendar day of each  
20      month that includes all of the following:

21           (A) the aggregate total dollars that have been paid to  
22      approved Program providers to date;

23           (B) the aggregate number of enrolled students in this  
24      State for whom an invoice has been submitted; and

25           (C) the aggregate number of enrolled students in this  
26      State for whom an invoice has not been submitted.

1       (j) Funds received by an approved Program provider under  
2 this Section shall be used for providing and preparing for  
3 instruction, instructional materials, and support services for  
4 students, including coaching and mentoring. The funds shall  
5 not be used to build or expand brick-and-mortar  
6 infrastructure.

7       (k) An approved Program provider may not require or accept  
8 any financial payments from a student enrolled in the program.

9       (l) In 2027 and each year thereafter, no later than August  
10 15, each approved Program provider shall submit a report to  
11 the Board that includes:

12           (1) the number of eligible students participating in  
13 the Program;

14           (2) the number of units of high school credit earned  
15 by the students;

16           (3) the number of employability skills certificates  
17 earned by the students;

18           (4) the number of workforce credentials earned by the  
19 students; and

20           (5) the number of students who earned a high school  
21 diploma through participation in the Program.

22       (m) Beginning in 2027, no later than December 1 of each  
23 year, the Board shall provide the Governor and the General  
24 Assembly a report that includes:

25           (1) the information reported to the Board under  
26 subsection (l);

1           (2) the amount of funds disbursed to each approved  
2           Program provider and the milestones for which the funding  
3           was disbursed;

4           (3) the graduation rate for each approved Program  
5           provider; and

6           (4) the average cost per graduate for each approved  
7           Program provider.

8           (n) This Section is repealed on June 30, 2030."