

SB3151



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3151

Introduced 2/2/2026, by Sen. Patrick J. Joyce

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Community College Economic Empowerment Act. Requires the Illinois Community College Board to provide an additional \$1,000,000 per year in funding to community college districts whose primary campus is located within an enterprise zone, a HUBZone, or 2 miles of an opportunity zone; defines these zones. Establishes qualifications for funding. Requires each community college district that receives additional funds to submit an annual report to the Board. Requires the Board to submit a compiled annual report to the General Assembly. Provides that implementation of the Act is subject to appropriation. Contains a severability clause. Effective immediately.

LRB104 18520 LNS 31962 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Community College Economic Empowerment Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
7 finds that:

8 (1) community colleges play a crucial role in
9 providing accessible and affordable higher education to
10 the residents of this State;

11 (2) the development of designated economically
12 disadvantaged areas, such as enterprise zones, HUBZones,
13 and opportunity zones, is essential for fostering
14 long-term economic growth and prosperity; and

15 (3) the presence of community colleges within these
16 designated areas promotes educational advancement,
17 workforce development, and local economic revitalization.

18 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

19 "Community college" means a public community college
20 district in this State.

21 "Enterprise zone" means a geographic area designated by
22 the State pursuant to the Illinois Enterprise Zone Act,

1 intended to stimulate economic development and job creation.

2 "HUBZone" means a historically underutilized business zone
3 designated by the United States Small Business Administration,
4 which provides federal benefits to businesses located within
5 the zone.

6 "Opportunity zone" means a designated low-income
7 community, under Section 13823 of the federal Tax Cuts and
8 Jobs Act of 2017, that is eligible for tax incentives under the
9 federal Qualified Opportunity Zone program.

10 Section 15. Funding eligibility.

11 (a) The Illinois Community College Board shall provide an
12 additional \$1,000,000 per year in funding to community
13 colleges whose primary campus is located: (i) within an
14 enterprise zone; (ii) within a HUBZone; and (iii) within 2
15 miles of an opportunity zone.

16 (b) To qualify for funding under this Section, the
17 community college must submit a request to the Illinois
18 Community College Board, which shall verify that a campus
19 meets the criteria set forth in subsection (a) and confirm the
20 ongoing eligibility of the community college for such funding.

21 Section 20. Allocation of funds.

22 (a) The annual allocation of funds under Section 15 shall
23 be distributed equally among all eligible community colleges,
24 as verified by the Illinois Community College Board, unless

1 otherwise directed by the General Assembly.

2 (b) Funds provided pursuant to this Act shall be used
3 exclusively for initiatives that support educational programs,
4 workforce development, community engagement, infrastructure
5 improvements, and other activities directly benefiting
6 students and local communities.

7 Section 25. Reporting requirements.

8 (a) Each community college receiving funding under this
9 Act shall submit an annual report to the Illinois Community
10 College Board detailing: (i) the total amount of funds
11 received; (ii) how the funds were expended; (iii) the
12 measurable impact on local economic development, student
13 enrollment, and workforce outcomes; and (iv) any other
14 information required by the Illinois Community College Board.

15 (b) The Illinois Community College Board shall compile and
16 submit an annual report to the General Assembly summarizing
17 the use and impact of funds distributed under this Act.

18 Section 30. Appropriations. Implementation of this Act is
19 subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. Subject to
20 available appropriations, the Illinois Community College Board
21 shall administer and distribute funds in accordance with this
22 Act.

23 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are

1 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.