



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB0443

by Rep. Jeanne M Ives

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 105/5.878 new  
105 ILCS 5/2-3.170 new

Amends the School Code. Creates the Illinois School Choice Program, which shall be administered by the State Board of Education. Provides that any State-recognized, non-public school wishing to enroll eligible students and be reimbursed for vouchers available under specified provisions shall notify the State Board of Education in writing of its intent. Specifies the eligibility for reimbursement of vouchers. Specifies reporting requirements for non-public schools that are participating in the Program. Contains provisions concerning the calculation of vouchers and how they may be used by parents. Contains provisions concerning the verification of the household income of participating parents. Provides that the State Board of Education shall adopt rules for implementation of the Program. Amends the State Finance Act to create the School Choice Fund as a special fund in the State treasury and provides that permitted fees collected by the State Board of Education shall be deposited into the Fund and shall be used by the State Board of Education to cover the administrative costs of the Program. Effective immediately.

LRB100 04225 NHT 14231 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

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 5. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
5 Section 5.878 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.878 new)

7 Sec. 5.878. The School Choice Fund.

8 Section 10. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
9 2-3.170 as follows:

10 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.170 new)

11 Sec. 2-3.170. Illinois School Choice Program; vouchers.

12 (a) For purposes of this Section:

13 "Eligible pupil" means a student enrolled in kindergarten  
14 or any of grades one through 12 who is an Illinois resident and  
15 who would be enrolled in a low-performing school if not  
16 attending a participating school.

17 "Fund" means the School Choice Fund.

18 "Low-performing school" means a public school in this State  
19 that enrolls students in any of grades kindergarten through 12  
20 and that is ranked within the lowest 10% of schools in the  
21 school district in terms of the percentage of students meeting

1 or exceeding standards on State assessments.

2 "Parent" means the custodian of an eligible pupil.

3 "Participating school" means a State-recognized,  
4 non-public school that has notified the State Board of  
5 Education in writing of its intent to enroll eligible students  
6 and be reimbursed for vouchers and that has paid any required  
7 fees to the State Board of Education and complied with all  
8 statutory and regulatory requirements for the Illinois School  
9 Choice Program.

10 (b) The Illinois School Choice Program is created and shall  
11 be administered by the State Board of Education. Any  
12 State-recognized, non-public school wishing to enroll eligible  
13 students and be reimbursed for vouchers available under this  
14 Section shall notify the State Board of Education in writing of  
15 its intent. To be eligible for reimbursement for vouchers,  
16 participating schools must pay a nonrefundable fee established  
17 by the State Board of Education by rule to be deposited into  
18 the Fund. The total amount of fees deposited into the Fund  
19 shall be in an amount sufficient to cover administrative costs  
20 of the program to the State Board of Education. The State Board  
21 of Education may require an additional fee from participating  
22 schools and public and private grant funds to commission  
23 external reviews of the performance of the Illinois School  
24 Choice Program.

25 (c) The State Board of Education shall require  
26 participating non-public schools to report the cost of tuition

1 and fees at the school, the address of each eligible pupil, and  
2 each eligible pupil's household income tier as described in  
3 items (1) through (3) of subsection (d) of this Section. The  
4 State Board of Education may establish additional reporting and  
5 auditing requirements for non-public schools for participation  
6 under this Section.

7 (d) Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, any pupil in  
8 grades kindergarten through 12 shall be eligible for an  
9 educational voucher on his or her behalf if the pupil is  
10 enrolled at a participating school. Once an eligible pupil  
11 qualifies for a voucher, the pupil is entitled to a voucher for  
12 the remaining applicable grades taught at the participating  
13 school. The annual amount of the voucher shall be equal to the  
14 lesser of the total annual cost of tuition and fees at the  
15 non-public school or the following:

16 (1) the amount of the foundation level, as provided  
17 under subsection (B) of Section 18-8.05 of this Code, in  
18 the case of a pupil who is the member of family that has a  
19 total family income that does not exceed 3 times the  
20 federal poverty level;

21 (2) one-half the amount of the foundation level, as  
22 provided under subsection (B) of Section 18-8.05 of this  
23 Code, in the case of a pupil who is the member of family  
24 that has a total family income between 3 and 4 times the  
25 federal poverty level; or

26 (3) the amount of the flat grant, as provided under

1 paragraph (4) of subsection (E) of Section 18-8.05 of this  
2 Code, in the case of a pupil who is the member of a family  
3 that has a total family income exceeding 4 times the  
4 federal poverty level.

5 (e) The State Board of Education shall determine by rule  
6 the process by which parents receive vouchers. The vouchers may  
7 be redeemed by a parent at any participating school. Vouchers  
8 issued pursuant to this Section are redeemable only for a net  
9 reduction in tuition owed by the parent for an eligible student  
10 to attend a participating school. No portion of voucher funds  
11 may be refunded directly to parents in the form of cash or  
12 similar payment. If the participating school at which a voucher  
13 is redeemed for an eligible pupil is different from the school  
14 at which that eligible pupil was registered when the voucher  
15 was issued, then the school at which the eligible pupil is  
16 currently enrolled must notify the State Board of Education of  
17 the eligible pupil's enrollment status, family income,  
18 parental contact information, and student identification  
19 number in order to receive reimbursement for that voucher.

20 (f) Participating schools shall request documentation from  
21 parents of pupils participating under this Section to verify  
22 household income for purposes of determining the amount of the  
23 voucher to which each eligible pupil is entitled. Parents  
24 failing to provide documentation shall be disqualified from  
25 receiving a voucher for that school year.

26 (g) Participating schools shall certify to the State Board

1 of Education the number of vouchers received for enrolled  
2 pupils in each income bracket to be eligible for reimbursement.  
3 The State Board of Education shall reimburse the participating  
4 school for the total amount of the vouchers received in  
5 quarterly installments on or before September 30, December 30,  
6 March 30, and June 20 of each year.

7 (h) The School Choice Fund is created as a special fund in  
8 the State treasury. Fees collected pursuant to subsection (b)  
9 of this Section shall be deposited into the Fund and shall be  
10 used, subject to appropriation, by the State Board of Education  
11 to cover the administrative costs of the Illinois School Choice  
12 Program.

13 (i) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for  
14 implementation of this Section.

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
16 becoming law.