

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 School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 2-3.173 and by changing Section 27-22.05 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.173 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.173. Registered apprenticeship program.

8 (a) In this Section, "registered apprenticeship program"  
9 means an industry-based occupational training program of study  
10 with standards reviewed and approved by the United States  
11 Department of Labor that meets each of the following  
12 characteristics:

13 (1) Apprentices in the program are at all times  
14 employed by a company participating in the program.

15 (2) The program features a structured combination of  
16 on-the-job learning supported by related technical  
17 classroom instruction, met either by a high school or a  
18 public community college.

19 (3) Apprentices in the program are paid a training wage  
20 of not less than the State minimum wage, which escalates  
21 throughout the life of the apprenticeship, and employment  
22 is continued with the company following conclusion of the  
23 apprenticeship for a period of not less than 2 years.

1           (4) Apprentices in the program earn an  
2           industry-related occupational skills certificate and a  
3           high school diploma.

4           (5) Apprentices in the program may earn postsecondary  
5           credit toward a certificate or degree, as applicable.

6           (b) No later than 6 months after the effective date of this  
7           amendatory Act of the 100th General Assembly, the State Board  
8           of Education shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to adopt  
9           rules as may be necessary to allow students of any high school  
10           in this State who are 16 years of age or older to participate  
11           in registered apprenticeship programs. The rules shall include  
12           the waiver of all non-academic requirements mandated for  
13           graduation from a high school under this Code that would  
14           otherwise prohibit or prevent a student from participating in a  
15           registered apprenticeship program.

16           (105 ILCS 5/27-22.05)

17           Sec. 27-22.05. Required course substitute. Notwithstanding  
18           any other provision of this Article or this Code, a school  
19           board that maintains any of grades 9 through 12 is authorized  
20           to adopt a policy under which a student who is enrolled in any  
21           of those grades may satisfy one or more high school course or  
22           graduation requirements, including, but not limited to, any  
23           requirements under Sections 27-6 and 27-22, by successfully  
24           completing a registered apprenticeship program under rules  
25           adopted by the State Board of Education under Section 2-3.173

1 of this Code, or by substituting for and successfully  
2 completing in place of the high school course or graduation  
3 requirement a related vocational or technical education  
4 course. A vocational or technical education course shall not  
5 qualify as a related vocational or technical education course  
6 within the meaning of this Section unless it contains at least  
7 50% of the content of the required course or graduation  
8 requirement for which it is substituted, as determined by the  
9 State Board of Education in accordance with standards that it  
10 shall adopt and uniformly apply for purposes of this Section.  
11 No vocational or technical education course may be substituted  
12 for a required course or graduation requirement under any  
13 policy adopted by a school board as authorized in this Section  
14 unless the pupil's parent or guardian first requests the  
15 substitution and approves it in writing on forms that the  
16 school district makes available for purposes of this Section.  
17 (Source: P.A. 88-269.)

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
19 becoming law.