



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB4954

Introduced 2/18/2020, by Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/24-2  
105 ILCS 5/27-21

from Ch. 122, par. 24-2  
from Ch. 122, par. 27-21

Amends the School Code. Adds as commemorative holidays January 15 (to be known as Humanitarian Day and observed as a day of respect for the principles of human and civil rights and to involve the use of the color white as a visual affirmation to practice these principles), April 4 (to be known as Victims of Violence Wholly Day and observed as a day of respect for the principles of nonviolence and to involve the use of the color black as a visual affirmation to practice these principles), and August 28 (to be known as Dream Day and observed as a day of respect for the spiritual and moral principles of peoplehood and to involve the use of the colors black and white as a visual affirmation to practice these principles). Provides that the teaching of the history of the United States shall include the study of the American civil rights renaissance, that period of time from 1954 to 1965 called the Movement.

LRB101 18614 CMG 68069 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

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 changing Sections  
5 24-2 and 27-21 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/24-2) (from Ch. 122, par. 24-2)  
7 Sec. 24-2. Holidays.

8 (a) Teachers shall not be required to teach on Saturdays,  
9 nor, except as provided in subsection (b) of this Section,  
10 shall teachers or other school employees, other than  
11 noncertificated school employees whose presence is necessary  
12 because of an emergency or for the continued operation and  
13 maintenance of school facilities or property, be required to  
14 work on legal school holidays, which are January 1, New Year's  
15 Day; the third Monday in January, the Birthday of Dr. Martin  
16 Luther King, Jr.; February 12, the Birthday of President  
17 Abraham Lincoln; the first Monday in March (to be known as  
18 Casimir Pulaski's birthday); Good Friday; the day designated as  
19 Memorial Day by federal law; July 4, Independence Day; the  
20 first Monday in September, Labor Day; the second Monday in  
21 October, Columbus Day; November 11, Veterans' Day; the Thursday  
22 in November commonly called Thanksgiving Day; and December 25,  
23 Christmas Day. School boards may grant special holidays

1 whenever in their judgment such action is advisable. No  
2 deduction shall be made from the time or compensation of a  
3 school employee on account of any legal or special holiday.

4 (b) A school board or other entity eligible to apply for  
5 waivers and modifications under Section 2-3.25g of this Code is  
6 authorized to hold school or schedule teachers' institutes,  
7 parent-teacher conferences, or staff development on the third  
8 Monday in January (the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King,  
9 Jr.); February 12 (the Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln);  
10 the first Monday in March (known as Casimir Pulaski's  
11 birthday); the second Monday in October (Columbus Day); and  
12 November 11 (Veterans' Day), provided that:

13 (1) the person or persons honored by the holiday are  
14 recognized through instructional activities conducted on  
15 that day or, if the day is not used for student attendance,  
16 on the first school day preceding or following that day;  
17 and

18 (2) the entity that chooses to exercise this authority  
19 first holds a public hearing about the proposal. The entity  
20 shall provide notice preceding the public hearing to both  
21 educators and parents. The notice shall set forth the time,  
22 date, and place of the hearing, describe the proposal, and  
23 indicate that the entity will take testimony from educators  
24 and parents about the proposal.

25 (c) Commemorative holidays, which recognize specified  
26 patriotic, civic, cultural or historical persons, activities,

1 or events, are regular school days. Commemorative holidays are:  
2 January 15 (to be known as Humanitarian Day and observed as a  
3 day of respect for the principles of human and civil rights and  
4 to involve the use of the color white as a visual affirmation  
5 to practice these principles), January 28 (to be known as  
6 Christa McAuliffe Day and observed as a commemoration of space  
7 exploration), February 15 (the birthday of Susan B. Anthony),  
8 March 29 (Viet Nam War Veterans' Day), April 4 (to be known as  
9 Victims of Violence Wholly Day and observed as a day of respect  
10 for the principles of nonviolence and to involve the use of the  
11 color black as a visual affirmation to practice these  
12 principles), August 28 (to be known as Dream Day and observed  
13 as a day of respect for the spiritual and moral principles of  
14 peoplehood and to involve the use of the colors black and white  
15 as a visual affirmation to practice these principles),  
16 September 11 (September 11th Day of Remembrance), the school  
17 day immediately preceding Veterans' Day (Korean War Veterans'  
18 Day), October 1 (Recycling Day), October 7 (Iraq and  
19 Afghanistan Veterans Remembrance Day), December 7 (Pearl  
20 Harbor Veterans' Day), and any day so appointed by the  
21 President or Governor. School boards may establish  
22 commemorative holidays whenever in their judgment such action  
23 is advisable. School boards shall include instruction relative  
24 to commemorated persons, activities, or events on the  
25 commemorative holiday or at any other time during the school  
26 year and at any point in the curriculum when such instruction

1 may be deemed appropriate. The State Board of Education shall  
2 prepare and make available to school boards instructional  
3 materials relative to commemorated persons, activities, or  
4 events which may be used by school boards in conjunction with  
5 any instruction provided pursuant to this paragraph.

6 (d) City of Chicago School District 299 shall observe March  
7 4 of each year as a commemorative holiday. This holiday shall  
8 be known as Mayors' Day which shall be a day to commemorate and  
9 be reminded of the past Chief Executive Officers of the City of  
10 Chicago, and in particular the late Mayor Richard J. Daley and  
11 the late Mayor Harold Washington. If March 4 falls on a  
12 Saturday or Sunday, Mayors' Day shall be observed on the  
13 following Monday.

14 (Source: P.A. 98-156, eff. 8-2-13.)

15 (105 ILCS 5/27-21) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-21)

16 (Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 101-227)

17 Sec. 27-21. History of United States. History of the United  
18 States shall be taught in all public schools and in all other  
19 educational institutions in this State supported or  
20 maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds. The teaching  
21 of history shall have as one of its objectives the imparting to  
22 pupils of a comprehensive idea of our democratic form of  
23 government and the principles for which our government stands  
24 as regards other nations, including the studying of the place  
25 of our government in world-wide movements and the leaders

1       thereof, with particular stress upon the basic principles and  
2       ideals of our representative form of government. The teaching  
3       of history shall include a study of the role and contributions  
4       of African Americans and other ethnic groups, including, but  
5       not restricted to, Polish, Lithuanian, German, Hungarian,  
6       Irish, Bohemian, Russian, Albanian, Italian, Czech, Slovak,  
7       French, Scots, Hispanics, Asian Americans, etc., in the history  
8       of this country and this State. To reinforce the study of the  
9       role and contributions of Hispanics, such curriculum shall  
10      include the study of the events related to the forceful removal  
11      and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens  
12      during the Great Depression. The teaching of history shall  
13      include the study of the American civil rights renaissance,  
14      that period of time from 1954 to 1965 called the Movement. The  
15      teaching of history also shall include a study of the role of  
16      labor unions and their interaction with government in achieving  
17      the goals of a mixed free enterprise system. Beginning with the  
18      2020-2021 school year, the teaching of history must also  
19      include instruction on the history of Illinois. No pupils shall  
20      be graduated from the eighth grade of any public school unless  
21      he has received such instruction in the history of the United  
22      States and gives evidence of having a comprehensive knowledge  
23      thereof.

24      (Source: P.A. 101-341, eff. 1-1-20; revised 9-19-19.)

25               (Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 101-227)

1           Sec. 27-21. History of United States. History of the United  
2 States shall be taught in all public schools and in all other  
3 educational institutions in this State supported or  
4 maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds. The teaching  
5 of history shall have as one of its objectives the imparting to  
6 pupils of a comprehensive idea of our democratic form of  
7 government and the principles for which our government stands  
8 as regards other nations, including the studying of the place  
9 of our government in world-wide movements and the leaders  
10 thereof, with particular stress upon the basic principles and  
11 ideals of our representative form of government. The teaching  
12 of history shall include a study of the role and contributions  
13 of African Americans and other ethnic groups, including, but  
14 not restricted to, Polish, Lithuanian, German, Hungarian,  
15 Irish, Bohemian, Russian, Albanian, Italian, Czech, Slovak,  
16 French, Scots, Hispanics, Asian Americans, etc., in the history  
17 of this country and this State. To reinforce the study of the  
18 role and contributions of Hispanics, such curriculum shall  
19 include the study of the events related to the forceful removal  
20 and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens  
21 during the Great Depression. The teaching of history shall  
22 include the study of the American civil rights renaissance,  
23 that period of time from 1954 to 1965 called the Movement. In  
24 public schools only, the teaching of history shall include a  
25 study of the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
26 and transgender people in the history of this country and this

1 State. The teaching of history also shall include a study of  
2 the role of labor unions and their interaction with government  
3 in achieving the goals of a mixed free enterprise system.  
4 Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the teaching of  
5 history must also include instruction on the history of  
6 Illinois. No pupils shall be graduated from the eighth grade of  
7 any public school unless he or she has received such  
8 instruction in the history of the United States and gives  
9 evidence of having a comprehensive knowledge thereof.

10 (Source: P.A. 101-227, eff. 7-1-20; 101-341, eff. 1-1-20;  
11 revised 9-19-19.)

12 Section 95. No acceleration or delay. Where this Act makes  
13 changes in a statute that is represented in this Act by text  
14 that is not yet or no longer in effect (for example, a Section  
15 represented by multiple versions), the use of that text does  
16 not accelerate or delay the taking effect of (i) the changes  
17 made by this Act or (ii) provisions derived from any other  
18 Public Act.