



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB1710

Introduced 2/17/2021, by Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2405/10

from Ch. 23, par. 3441

Amends the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities Act. Requires the Superintendent of the Illinois School for the Deaf to have a degree in educational administration, together with at least 10 years of experience in either deaf or hard of hearing education, the administration of deaf or hard of hearing education, or a combination of the 2 (rather than degrees in both educational administration and deaf education, together with at least 15 years of experience in either deaf education, the administration of deaf education, or a combination of the 2). Requires the Superintendent of the Illinois School of the Visually Impaired to have a degree in educational administration, together with at least 10 years of experience in either blind or visually impaired education, or a combination of the 2 (rather than degrees in both educational administration and blind and visually impaired education, the administration of blind or visually impaired education, or a combination of the 2). Effective immediately.

LRB102 12107 KTG 17444 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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

4 Section 5. The Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities
5 Act is amended by changing Section 10 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2405/10) (from Ch. 23, par. 3441)

7 Sec. 10. Residential schools; visual and hearing
8 disabilities.

9 (a) The Department of Human Services shall operate
10 residential schools for the education of children with visual
11 and hearing disabilities who are unable to take advantage of
12 the regular educational facilities provided in the community,
13 and shall provide in connection therewith such academic,
14 vocational, and related services as may be required. Children
15 shall be eligible for admission to these schools only after
16 proper diagnosis and evaluation, in accordance with procedures
17 prescribed by the Department.

18 (a-5) The Superintendent of the Illinois School for the
19 Deaf shall be the chief executive officer of, and shall be
20 responsible for the day to day operations of, the School, and
21 shall obtain educational and professional employees who are
22 certified by the Illinois State Board of Education or licensed
23 by the appropriate agency or entity to which licensing

1 authority has been delegated, as well as all other employees
2 of the School, subject to the provisions of the Personnel Code
3 and any applicable collective bargaining agreement. The
4 Superintendent shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with
5 the advice and consent of the Senate. In the case of a vacancy
6 in the office of Superintendent during the recess of the
7 Senate, the Governor shall make a temporary appointment until
8 the next meeting of the Senate, when the Governor shall
9 nominate some person to fill the office, and any person so
10 nominated who is confirmed by the Senate shall hold office
11 during the remainder of the term and until his or her successor
12 is appointed and qualified. The Superintendent shall hold
13 office (i) for a term expiring on June 30 of 2015, and every 4
14 years thereafter and (ii) until the Superintendent's successor
15 is appointed and qualified. The Superintendent shall devote
16 his or her full time to the duties of the office, shall not
17 serve in any other capacity during his or her term of office,
18 and shall receive such compensation as the Governor shall
19 determine. The Superintendent shall have an administrative
20 certificate with a superintendent endorsement as provided for
21 under Section 21-7.1 of the School Code, and shall have a
22 degree in educational administration, together with at least
23 10 years of experience in either deaf or hard of hearing
24 education, the administration of deaf or hard of hearing
25 education, or a combination of the 2. Preference shall be
26 given to candidates with a degree in deaf education. The

1 Superintendent must be fluent in American Sign Language
2 ~~degrees in both educational administration and deaf education,~~
3 ~~together with at least 15 years of experience in either deaf~~
4 ~~education, the administration of deaf education, or a~~
5 ~~combination of the 2.~~

6 (a-10) The Superintendent of the Illinois School for the
7 Visually Impaired shall be the chief executive officer of, and
8 shall be responsible for the day to day operations of, the
9 School, and shall obtain educational and professional
10 employees who are certified by the Illinois State Board of
11 Education or licensed by the appropriate agency or entity to
12 which licensing authority has been delegated, as well as all
13 other employees of the School, subject to the provisions of
14 the Personnel Code and any applicable collective bargaining
15 agreement. The Superintendent shall be appointed by the
16 Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. In
17 the case of a vacancy in the office of Superintendent during
18 the recess of the Senate, the Governor shall make a temporary
19 appointment until the next meeting of the Senate, when the
20 Governor shall nominate some person to fill the office, and
21 any person so nominated who is confirmed by the Senate shall
22 hold office during the remainder of the term and until his or
23 her successor is appointed and qualified. The Superintendent
24 shall hold office (i) for a term expiring on June 30 of 2015,
25 and every 4 years thereafter and (ii) until the
26 Superintendent's successor is appointed and qualified. The

1 Superintendent shall devote his or her full time to the duties
2 of the office, shall not serve in any other capacity during his
3 or her term of office, and shall receive such compensation as
4 the Governor shall determine. The Superintendent shall have an
5 administrative certificate with a superintendent endorsement
6 as provided for under Section 21-7.1 of the School Code, and
7 shall have a degree in educational administration, together
8 with at least 10 years of experience in either blind or
9 visually impaired education, the administration of blind or
10 visually impaired education, or a combination of the 2.
11 Preference shall be given to candidates with a degree in blind
12 or visually impaired education. ~~degrees in both educational~~
13 ~~administration and blind or visually impaired education,~~
14 ~~together with at least 15 years of experience in either blind~~
15 ~~or visually impaired education, the administration of blind or~~
16 ~~visually impaired education, or a combination of the 2.~~

17 (b) In administering the Illinois School for the Deaf, the
18 Department shall adopt an admission policy which permits day
19 or residential enrollment, when resources are sufficient, of
20 children with hearing disabilities who are able to take
21 advantage of the regular educational facilities provided in
22 the community and thus unqualified for admission under
23 subsection (a). In doing so, the Department shall establish an
24 annual deadline by which shall be completed the enrollment of
25 children qualified under subsection (a) for admission to the
26 Illinois School for the Deaf. After the deadline, the Illinois

1 School for the Deaf may enroll other children with hearing
2 disabilities at the request of their parents or guardians if
3 the Department determines there are sufficient resources to
4 meet their needs as well as the needs of children enrolled
5 before the deadline and children qualified under subsection
6 (a) who may be enrolled after the deadline on an emergency
7 basis. The Department shall adopt any rules and regulations
8 necessary for the implementation of this subsection.

9 (c) In administering the Illinois School for the Visually
10 Impaired, the Department shall adopt an admission policy that
11 permits day or residential enrollment, when resources are
12 sufficient, of children with visual disabilities who are able
13 to take advantage of the regular educational facilities
14 provided in the community and thus unqualified for admission
15 under subsection (a). In doing so, the Department shall
16 establish an annual deadline by which the enrollment of
17 children qualified under subsection (a) for admission to the
18 Illinois School for the Visually Impaired shall be completed.
19 After the deadline, the Illinois School for the Visually
20 Impaired may enroll other children with visual disabilities at
21 the request of their parents or guardians if the Department
22 determines there are sufficient resources to meet their needs
23 as well as the needs of children enrolled before the deadline
24 and children qualified under subsection (a) who may be
25 enrolled after the deadline on an emergency basis. The
26 Department shall adopt any rules and regulations necessary for

1 the implementation of this subsection.

2 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

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