

# SB1787



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB1787

Introduced 2/9/2023, by Sen. David Koehler

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/22-95 new

Amends the School Code to create the Rural Education Advisory Council. Provides that the purpose of the council is to exchange thoughtful dialogue concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities of rural districts and to provide policy recommendations to the State. Sets forth the functions and membership of the council. Contains provisions concerning expenses, meetings, and administrative support.

LRB103 25387 RJT 51733 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 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 22-95 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/22-95 new)

7 Sec. 22-95. Rural Education Advisory Council.

8 (a) The Rural Education Advisory Council is created as a  
9 statewide advisory council to exchange thoughtful dialogue  
10 concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities of rural  
11 schools districts and to provide policy recommendations to the  
12 State. The Council shall perform all of the following  
13 functions:

14 (1) Convey and impart the perspective of rural  
15 communities and provide context during policy discussions  
16 on various statewide issues with the State Superintendent  
17 of Education and State Board of Education.

18 (2) Present to the State Superintendent of Education  
19 the opportunity to provide an explanation to rural  
20 communities about the statewide perspective with regard to  
21 various policy and legal issues, to present feedback on  
22 critical issues facing rural communities, to generate  
23 ideas, and to communicate information to the State

1 Superintendent.

2 (3) Provide feedback about this State's  
3 pre-kindergarten through grade 20 practices and policies  
4 in order that the application of policies in rural areas  
5 may be more fully understood.

6 (4) Analyze and monitor the continued impact of the  
7 implementation of Public Act 100-465 on school districts  
8 and to provide a rural perspective on the continued  
9 funding challenges faced by schools.

10 (b) The Council shall consist of all of the following  
11 members:

12 (1) The State Superintendent of Education or his or  
13 her designee.

14 (2) The Executive Director of the Association of  
15 Illinois Rural and Small Schools or his or her designee  
16 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

17 (3) The Executive Director of the Illinois Community  
18 College Board or his or her designee.

19 (4) Five superintendents of rural school districts who  
20 represent 3 super-regions of this State recommended by the  
21 Executive Director of the Association of Illinois Rural  
22 and Small Schools and appointed by the State  
23 Superintendent of Education.

24 (5) One principal from a rural school district  
25 recommended by the Illinois Principal Association and  
26 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

1           (6) One representative from the Illinois Association  
2           of School Boards appointed by the State Superintendent of  
3           Education.

4           (7) One representative from the Board of Directors of  
5           the Illinois Association of School Administrators  
6           appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

7           (8) The President of the Illinois Association of  
8           Regional School Superintendents or his or her designee  
9           appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

10           (9) One student who is at least 16 years old and who is  
11           from a rural school district that is eligible under the  
12           federal Rural Education Achievement Program appointed by  
13           the State Superintendent of Education from a list of  
14           students nominated by school principals.

15           Council members shall serve without compensation, but  
16           shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary  
17           expenses from funds appropriated to the State Board of  
18           Education for that purpose.

19           (c) The Council shall meet initially at the call of the  
20           State Superintendent of Education, shall select one member as  
21           chairperson at its initial meeting, and shall thereafter meet  
22           at the call of the chairperson.

23           (d) The State Board of Education shall provide  
24           administrative and other support to the Council, with  
25           assistance from the Association of Illinois Rural and Small  
26           Schools. Support shall include all of the following:

1           (1) To collaborate with the State Superintendent of  
2           Education to create a clear and strategically focused  
3           agenda with expected outcomes.

4           (2) To gather input from the Council and other  
5           stakeholders to ensure that meetings are productive.

6           (3) To coordinate with presenters to ensure that  
7           presentations are designed to prompt discussions and  
8           problem solving.

9           (4) To assist with necessary research and content  
10           creation between Council meetings.

11           (5) To cooperate with other State agencies and the  
12           General Assembly to assist in keeping the Council informed  
13           of major policy developments that may impact rural schools  
14           and students.

15           (6) To take meeting minutes and work with the Council  
16           to ensure that Open Meetings Act requirements are  
17           satisfied.