

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.

18 (2) Present to the State Superintendent of Education
19 the opportunity to speak directly with representatives of
20 rural communities on various policy and legal issues, to
21 present feedback on critical issues facing rural
22 communities, to generate ideas, and to communicate
23 information to the State Superintendent.

1 (3) Provide feedback about this State's
2 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 practices and policies
3 so that the application of policies in rural areas may be
4 more fully understood.

5 (b) The Council shall consist of all of the following
6 members:

7 (1) The State Superintendent of Education or his or
8 her designee.

9 (2) One representative of an association representing
10 rural and small schools, appointed by the State
11 Superintendent of Education.

12 (3) Five superintendents of rural school districts who
13 represent 3 super-regions of this State and who are
14 recommended by an association representing rural and small
15 schools, appointed by the State Superintendent of
16 Education.

17 (4) One principal from a rural school district
18 recommended by a statewide organization representing
19 school principals, appointed by the State Superintendent
20 of Education.

21 (5) One representative from a rural school district
22 recommended by a statewide organization representing
23 school boards, appointed by the State Superintendent of
24 Education.

25 (6) One representative of a statewide organization
26 representing district superintendents, appointed by the

1 State Superintendent of Education.

2 (7) One representative of a statewide organization
3 representing regional superintendents of schools,
4 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

5 (8) One student who is at least 15 years old, who is a
6 member of the State Board of Education's Student Advisory
7 Council, and who is from a rural school district,
8 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

9 Council members must reflect, as much as possible, the
10 racial and ethnic diversity of this State.

11 Council members shall serve without compensation but shall
12 be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses from
13 funds appropriated to the State Board of Education for that
14 purpose, subject to the rules of the appropriate travel
15 control board.

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

20 (d) The State Board of Education shall provide
21 administrative and other support to the Council as needed.

22 (e) The Council is dissolved and this Section is repealed
23 on December 31, 2031.