98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB4655

Introduced 2/5/2014, by Rep. William Davis

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the School Code with respect to the suspension and expulsion of pupils. Provides for the expulsion of pupils by removing a pupil from a school or educational setting for a period of more than 10 school days for posing a significant threat of imminent serious harm to other pupils or to staff (instead of providing for the expulsion of pupils guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct). Provides for the suspension of pupils by removing a pupil from a school or educational setting for a period of not more than 10 days for a serious act of misconduct (instead of providing for the suspension of pupils quilty of gross disobedience or misconduct); makes related changes. Sets forth limitations on out-of-school suspensions. Requires behavioral support services and alternative educational services to be provided to certain students. Provides that, unless otherwise required by statute for a specific criminal offense, a student may not be arrested or otherwise cited for a criminal offense committed during school hours while on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or school-sanctioned event unless the offense constitutes a felony or the student has committed an identical offense within the preceding 6 months. Requires reports to be made for certain incidents. Provides that students may not be counseled by any school employee to leave school voluntarily in order to avoid formal disciplinary proceedings or because of any other disciplinary concerns. Provides that a student may not be issued a monetary fine or fee as a disciplinary consequence. Provides for charter school and alternative school application.

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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:

Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Sections
10-22.6, 13A-11, 27A-5, and 34-19 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-22.6) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-22.6)

Sec. 10-22.6. Suspension or expulsion of pupils; school searches.

9 (a) To expel pupils by removing a pupil from a school or educational setting for a period of more than 10 school days 10 for posing a significant threat of imminent serious harm to 11 other pupils or to staff, guilty of gross disobedience or 12 misconduct, including gross disobedience or misconduct 13 14 perpetuated by electronic means, and no action shall lie against them for such expulsion. Expulsion shall take place 15 16 only after the parents have been requested to appear at a 17 meeting of the board, or with a hearing officer appointed by it, to discuss their child's behavior. Such request shall be 18 19 made by registered or certified mail and shall state the time, place and purpose of the meeting. The board, or a hearing 20 21 officer appointed by it, at such meeting shall state the reasons for dismissal and the date on which the expulsion is to 22 become effective. If a hearing officer is appointed by the 23

board he shall report to the board a written summary of the 1 2 evidence heard at the meeting and the board may take such action thereon as it finds appropriate. An expelled pupil may 3 be immediately transferred to an alternative program in the 4 5 manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of this Code. A pupil 6 must not be denied transfer because of the expulsion, except in 7 cases in which such transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the 8 safety of students or staff in the alternative program.

9 (b) To suspend or by policy to authorize the superintendent 10 of the district or the principal, assistant principal, or dean 11 of students of any school to suspend pupils by removing a pupil 12 from a school or educational setting for a period of not more 13 than 10 school days for a serious act of misconduct quilty of gross disobedience or misconduct, or to suspend pupils guilty 14 of gross disobedience or misconduct on the school bus from 15 16 riding the school bus for a serious act of misconduct on the 17 school bus, and no action shall lie against them for such suspensions suspension. The board may by policy authorize 18 the 19 superintendent of the district or the principal, assistant 20 principal, or dean of students of any school to suspend pupils 21 guilty of such acts for a period not to exceed 10 school days. 22 If a pupil is suspended for a serious act of due to gross disobedience or misconduct on a school bus, the board may 23 suspend the pupil in excess of 10 school days for safety 24 25 reasons. Any suspension shall be reported immediately to the 26 parents or quardian of such pupil along with a full statement

of the reasons for such suspension and a notice of their right 1 2 to a review. The school board must be given a summary of the 3 notice, including the reason for the suspension and the suspension length. Upon request of the parents or quardian the 4 5 school board or a hearing officer appointed by it shall review such action of the superintendent or principal, assistant 6 7 principal, or dean of students. At such review the parents or 8 quardian of the pupil may appear and discuss the suspension 9 with the board or its hearing officer. If a hearing officer is 10 appointed by the board he shall report to the board a written 11 summary of the evidence heard at the meeting. After its hearing 12 or upon receipt of the written report of its hearing officer, 13 the board may take such action as it finds appropriate. A pupil who is suspended in excess of 20 school days may be immediately 14 15 transferred to an alternative program in the manner provided in 16 Article 13A or 13B of this Code. A pupil must not be denied 17 transfer because of the suspension, except in cases in which such transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety 18 of 19 students or staff in the alternative program.

20 (c) The Department of Human Services shall be invited to 21 send a representative to consult with the board at such meeting 22 whenever there is evidence that mental illness may be the cause 23 for expulsion or suspension.

(d) The board may expel a student for a definite period of
time not to exceed 2 calendar years, as determined on a case by
case basis. A student who is determined to have brought one of

the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year:

5 (1) A firearm. For the purposes of this Section, "firearm" means any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined 6 7 by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners 8 9 Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012. The expulsion period 10 11 under this subdivision (1) may be modified by the 12 superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis. 13

14 (2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon 15 regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other 16 object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily 17 harm, including "look alikes" of any firearm as defined in subdivision (1) of this subsection (d). The expulsion 18 19 requirement under this subdivision (2) may be modified by 20 the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis. 21

Expulsion or suspension shall be construed in a manner consistent with the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

A student who is subject to suspension or expulsion as provided in this Section may be eligible for a transfer to an

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alternative school program in accordance with Article 13A of
 the School Code.

3 Out-of-school suspensions of up to 3 school days may be used only when necessary to protect the safety of other 4 5 students or staff within the school or to avoid a significant disruption of the educational process. A student may not be 6 removed from school for longer than 3 school days or removed to 7 an alternative setting for disciplinary reasons unless it is 8 9 necessary to avoid a significant threat of imminent serious 10 harm to other students or to staff. All school exclusions must 11 be limited in duration to the greatest extent practicable.

12 The provisions of this subsection (d) apply in all school 13 districts, including special charter districts and districts 14 organized under Article 34.

15 (d-5) The board may suspend or by regulation authorize the 16 superintendent of the district or the principal, assistant 17 principal, or dean of students of any school to suspend a student for a period not to exceed 10 school days or may expel 18 a student for a definite period of time not to exceed 2 19 20 calendar years, as determined on a case by case basis, if (i) that student has been determined to have made an explicit 21 22 threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a 23 student, or any school-related personnel, (ii) the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was 24 25 accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or 26 was available to third parties who worked or studied within the

school grounds at the time the threat was made, and (iii) the 1 2 threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the 3 safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student 4 5 inside the school. The provisions of this subsection (d-5) apply in all school districts, including special charter 6 districts and districts organized under Article 34 of this 7 8 Code.

9 (e) To maintain order and security in the schools, school 10 authorities may inspect and search places and areas such as 11 lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and 12 equipment owned or controlled by the school, as well as personal effects left in those places and areas by students, 13 14 without notice to or the consent of the student, and without a 15 search warrant. As a matter of public policy, the General 16 Assembly finds that students have no reasonable expectation of 17 privacy in these places and areas or in their personal effects left in these places and areas. School authorities may request 18 the assistance of law enforcement officials for the purpose of 19 20 conducting inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking 21 lots, and other school property and equipment owned or 22 controlled by the school for illegal drugs, weapons, or other 23 illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs. 24 25 If a search conducted in accordance with this Section produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either 26

the law, local ordinance, or the school's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. School authorities may also turn over such evidence to law enforcement authorities. The provisions of this subsection (e) apply in all school districts, including special charter districts and districts organized under Article 34.

8 (f) Suspension or expulsion may include suspension or 9 expulsion from school and all school activities and a 10 prohibition from being present on school grounds.

11 (g) A school district may adopt a policy providing that if 12 a student is suspended or expelled for any reason from any 13 public or private school in this or any other state, the student must complete the entire term of the suspension or 14 15 expulsion in an alternative school program under Article 13A of 16 this Code or an alternative learning opportunities program 17 under Article 13B of this Code before being admitted into the school district if there is no threat to the safety of students 18 or staff in the alternative program. This subsection (g) 19 20 applies to all school districts, including special charter 21 districts and districts organized under Article 34 of this 22 Code.

23 (h) Students who are suspended out of school for longer 24 than 3 school days or removed to an alternative setting for 25 disciplinary reasons must be provided with behavioral support 26 services, as well alternative educational services, to promote

1 their successful return to their regular school. This
2 subsection (h) applies to all school districts, including
3 special charter districts and districts organized under
4 Article 34 of this Code.

5 (i) Unless otherwise required by statute for a specific criminal offense, a student may not be arrested or otherwise 6 7 cited for a criminal offense committed during school hours while on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school 8 9 activity or school-sanctioned event unless the offense 10 constitutes a felony in one of the classes defined in the 11 Criminal Code of 2012 or the student has committed an identical 12 offense within the preceding 6 months while on school grounds, 13 in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or 14 school-sanctioned event.

Nothing in this subsection (i) shall require the referral of a student suspected of committing a felony offense to a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency. School employees and officials retain their authority and discretion under existing law to address a student's behavior through the existing school discipline structure as modified by this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly.

Nothing in this subsection (i) limits the rights and duties of teachers, school administrators, other school district employees, and law enforcement officers from reporting and responding to criminal conduct by any individual who is not a student under the school district's jurisdiction. - 9 - LRB098 17234 NHT 52327 b

This subsection (i) applies to all school districts, 1 2 including special charter districts and districts organized 3 under Article 34 of this Code. 4 (j) All incidents resulting in an out-of-school suspension 5 longer than 3 days, removal to an alternative setting, arrest, or criminal citation must be documented in a written report 6 7 that includes a detailed description of the behavior at issue and an explanation of why the actions taken were necessary. 8 9 These individual reports must be immediately provided to the parent or guardian of the student and must be complied by each 10 11 school district into an annual summary report that is available 12 for public review. This subsection (j) applies to all school 13 districts, including special charter districts and districts 14 organized under Article 34 of this Code.

15 <u>(k) Students may not be counseled by any school employee to</u> 16 <u>leave school voluntarily in order to avoid formal disciplinary</u> 17 <u>proceedings or because of any other disciplinary concerns. A</u> 18 <u>student may not be issued a monetary fine or fee as a</u>

19 <u>disciplinary consequence</u>.

20 (Source: P.A. 96-633, eff. 8-24-09; 96-998, eff. 7-2-10; 21 97-340, eff. 1-1-12; 97-495, eff. 1-1-12; 97-813, eff. 7-13-12; 22 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)

23 (105 ILCS 5/13A-11)

24 Sec. 13A-11. Chicago public schools.

25 (a) The Chicago Board of Education may establish

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1	alternative schools within Chicago and may contract with third		
2	parties for services otherwise performed by employees,		
3	including those in a bargaining unit, in accordance with		
4	Sections 34-8.1, 34-18, and 34-49.		
5	(b) Alternative schools operated by third parties within		
6	Chicago shall be exempt from all provisions of <u>this</u> the School		
7	Code, except provisions concerning:		
8	(1) <u>student</u> civil rights;		
9	(2) <u>staff</u> Staff civil rights;		
10	(3) <u>health</u> Health and safety;		
11	(4) <u>performance</u> Performance and financial audits;		
12	(5) <u>the</u> Illinois Goals Assessment Program;		
13	(6) Chicago learning outcomes;		
14	(7) Sections 2-3.25a through 2-3.25j of <u>this</u> the School		
15	Code;		
16	(8) <u>the</u> Inspector General; and		
17	(9) Section 34-2.4b of <u>this</u> the School Code <u>; and</u> .		
18	(10) the discipline of students under Sections 10-22.6		
19	and 34-19 of this Code.		
20	(Source: P.A. 89-383, eff. 8-18-95; 89-636, eff. 8-9-96.)		
21	(105 ILCS 5/27A-5)		
22	Sec. 27A-5. Charter school; legal entity; requirements.		
23	(a) A charter school shall be a public, nonsectarian,		
24	nonreligious, non-home based, and non-profit school. A charter		
25	school shall be organized and operated as a nonprofit		

corporation or other discrete, legal, nonprofit entity
 authorized under the laws of the State of Illinois.

(b) A charter school may be established under this Article 3 by creating a new school or by converting an existing public 4 5 school or attendance center to charter school status. Beginning on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd 6 7 General Assembly, in all new applications submitted to the State Board or a local school board to establish a charter 8 9 school in a city having a population exceeding 500,000, 10 operation of the charter school shall be limited to one campus. 11 The changes made to this Section by this amendatory Act of the 12 93rd General Assembly do not apply to charter schools existing 13 or approved on or before the effective date of this amendatory 14 Act.

(b-5) In this subsection (b-5), "virtual-schooling" means the teaching of courses through online methods with online instructors, rather than the instructor and student being at the same physical location. "Virtual-schooling" includes without limitation instruction provided by full-time, online virtual schools.

From April 1, 2013 through April 1, 2014, there is a moratorium on the establishment of charter schools with virtual-schooling components in school districts other than a school district organized under Article 34 of this Code. This moratorium does not apply to a charter school with virtual-schooling components existing or approved prior to

April 1, 2013 or to the renewal of the charter of a charter school with virtual-schooling components already approved prior to April 1, 2013.

On or before March 1, 2014, the Commission shall submit to 4 5 the General Assembly a report on the effect of virtual-schooling, including without limitation the effect on 6 7 performance, the costs associated student with 8 virtual-schooling, and issues with oversight. The report shall 9 include policy recommendations for virtual-schooling.

10 (c) A charter school shall be administered and governed by 11 its board of directors or other governing body in the manner 12 provided in its charter. The governing body of a charter school 13 shall be subject to the Freedom of Information Act and the Open 14 Meetings Act.

15 (d) A charter school shall comply with all applicable 16 health and safety requirements applicable to public schools 17 under the laws of the State of Illinois.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in the School Code, a
charter school shall not charge tuition; provided that a
charter school may charge reasonable fees for textbooks,
instructional materials, and student activities.

(f) A charter school shall be responsible for the management and operation of its fiscal affairs including, but not limited to, the preparation of its budget. An audit of each charter school's finances shall be conducted annually by an outside, independent contractor retained by the charter

1 school. Annually, by December 1, every charter school must 2 submit to the State Board a copy of its audit and a copy of the 3 Form 990 the charter school filed that year with the federal 4 Internal Revenue Service.

(g) A charter school shall comply with all provisions of this Article, the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, and its charter. A charter school is exempt from all other State laws and regulations in <u>this the School</u> Code governing public schools and local school board policies, except the following:

10 (1) Sections 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 of <u>this</u> the School 11 Code regarding criminal history records checks and checks 12 of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Statewide 13 Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database of 14 applicants for employment;

15 (2) Sections <u>10-22.6</u>, 24-24, <u>34-19</u>, and 34-84A of <u>this</u>
 16 the School Code regarding discipline of students;

17 (3) <u>the</u> The Local Governmental and Governmental
 18 Employees Tort Immunity Act;

(4) Section 108.75 of the General Not For Profit
 Corporation Act of 1986 regarding indemnification of
 officers, directors, employees, and agents;

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23

(5) <u>the</u> The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act;

(6) <u>the</u> The Illinois School Student Records Act;

24 (7) Section 10-17a of <u>this</u> the School Code regarding
 25 school report cards; and

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(8) the The P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System

1 Act.

The change made by Public Act 96-104 to this subsection (g)
is declaratory of existing law.

(h) A charter school may negotiate and contract with a 4 5 school district, the governing body of a State college or university or public community college, or any other public or 6 7 for-profit or nonprofit private entity for: (i) the use of a school building and grounds or any other real property or 8 9 facilities that the charter school desires to use or convert 10 for use as a charter school site, (ii) the operation and 11 maintenance thereof, and (iii) the provision of any service, 12 activity, or undertaking that the charter school is required to 13 perform in order to carry out the terms of its charter. However, a charter school that is established on or after the 14 15 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General 16 Assembly and that operates in a city having a population 17 exceeding 500,000 may not contract with a for-profit entity to manage or operate the school during the period that commences 18 on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd 19 20 General Assembly and concludes at the end of the 2004-2005 school year. Except as provided in subsection (i) of this 21 22 Section, a school district may charge a charter school 23 reasonable rent for the use of the district's buildings, grounds, and facilities. Any services for which a charter 24 25 school contracts with a school district shall be provided by 26 the district at cost. Any services for which a charter school 1 contracts with a local school board or with the governing body 2 of a State college or university or public community college 3 shall be provided by the public entity at cost.

(i) In no event shall a charter school that is established 4 5 by converting an existing school or attendance center to 6 charter school status be required to pay rent for space that is 7 deemed available, as negotiated and provided in the charter agreement, in school district facilities. However, all other 8 9 costs for the operation and maintenance of school district 10 facilities that are used by the charter school shall be subject 11 to negotiation between the charter school and the local school 12 board and shall be set forth in the charter.

13 (j) A charter school may limit student enrollment by age or 14 grade level.

15 (k) If the charter school is approved by the Commission, 16 then the Commission charter school is its own local education 17 agency.

18 (Source: P.A. 97-152, eff. 7-20-11; 97-154, eff. 1-1-12;
19 97-813, eff. 7-13-12; 98-16, eff. 5-24-13.)

20 (105 ILCS 5/34-19) (from Ch. 122, par. 34-19)

Sec. 34-19. By-laws, rules and regulations; business transacted at regular meetings; voting; records. The board shall, subject to the limitations in this Article, establish by-laws, rules and regulations, which shall have the force of ordinances, for the proper maintenance of a uniform system of

discipline for both employees and pupils, and for the entire 1 2 management of the schools, and may fix the school age of pupils, the minimum of which in kindergartens shall not be 3 4 under 4 years, except that, based upon an assessment of the 5 child's readiness, children who have attended a non-public preschool and continued their education at that school through 6 kindergarten, were taught in kindergarten by an appropriately 7 certified teacher, and will attain the age of 6 years on or 8 9 before December 31 of the year of the 2009-2010 school term and 10 each school term thereafter may attend first grade upon 11 commencement of such term, and in grade schools shall not be 12 under 6 years. It may expel a pupil by removing the pupil from 13 a school or educational setting for a period of more than 10 14 school days for posing a significant threat of imminent serious 15 harm to other pupils or to staff, suspend a pupil by removing 16 the pupil from a school or educational setting for a period of 17 not more than 10 school days for a serious act of misconduct, or, subject to the limitations of all policies established or 18 adopted under Section 14-8.05, otherwise discipline any pupil 19 found guilty of violating gross disobedience, misconduct or 20 21 other violation of the by-laws, rules, and regulations, 22 including gross disobedience or misconduct perpetuated by 23 electronic means. Students may not be counseled by any school employee to leave school voluntarily in order to avoid formal 24 25 disciplinary proceedings or because of any other disciplinary concerns. A student may not be issued a monetary fine or fee as 26

expelled 1 a disciplinary consequence. An pupil mav be 2 immediately transferred to an alternative program in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of this Code. A pupil must not 3 be denied transfer because of the expulsion, except in cases in 4 5 which such transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative program. A pupil who is 6 7 suspended in excess of 20 school days may be immediately 8 transferred to an alternative program in the manner provided in 9 Article 13A or 13B of this Code. A pupil must not be denied 10 transfer because of the suspension, except in cases in which such transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety of 11 12 students or staff in the alternative program. The bylaws, rules 13 and regulations of the board shall be enacted, money shall be appropriated or expended, salaries shall be fixed or changed, 14 15 and textbooks, electronic textbooks, and courses of 16 instruction shall be adopted or changed only at the regular 17 meetings of the board and by a vote of a majority of the full membership of the board; provided that notwithstanding any 18 other provision of this Article or the School Code, neither the 19 20 board or any local school council may purchase any textbook for use in any public school of the district from any textbook 21 22 publisher that fails to furnish any computer diskettes as 23 required under Section 28-21. Funds appropriated for textbook purchases must be available for electronic textbook purchases 24 25 and the technological equipment necessary to gain access to and use electronic textbooks at the local school council's 26

discretion. The board shall be further encouraged to provide 1 2 opportunities for public hearing and testimony before the 3 adoption of bylaws, rules and regulations. all Upon propositions requiring for their adoption at least a majority 4 5 of all the members of the board the yeas and nays shall be taken and reported. The by-laws, rules and regulations of the 6 7 board shall not be repealed, amended or added to, except by a vote of 2/3 of the full membership of the board. The board 8 9 shall keep a record of all its proceedings. Such records and 10 all by-laws, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, may be 11 proved by a copy thereof certified to be such by the secretary 12 of the board, but if they are printed in book or pamphlet form 13 which are purported to be published by authority of the board they need not be otherwise published and the book or pamphlet 14 15 shall be received as evidence, without further proof, of the 16 records, by-laws, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, 17 as of the dates thereof as shown in such book or pamphlet, in all courts and places where judicial proceedings are had. 18

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Article or in 19 the School Code, the board may delegate to the general 20 superintendent or to the attorney the authorities granted to 21 22 the board in the School Code, provided such delegation and 23 appropriate oversight procedures are made pursuant to board by-laws, rules and regulations, adopted as herein provided, 24 25 except that the board may not delegate its authorities and responsibilities regarding (1) budget approval obligations; 26

(2) rule-making functions; (3) desegregation obligations; (4)
real estate acquisition, sale or lease in excess of 10 years as
provided in Section 34-21; (5) the levy of taxes; or (6) any
mandates imposed upon the board by "An Act in relation to
school reform in cities over 500,000, amending Acts herein
named", approved December 12, 1988 (P.A. 85-1418).
(Source: P.A. 96-864, eff. 1-21-10; 96-1403, eff. 7-29-10;

8 97-340, eff. 1-1-12; 97-495, eff. 1-1-12; 97-813, eff. 9 7-13-12.)

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