



2021 Spring Session Public Acts Specifically Impacting Students with Disabilities

Public Act 102-0172 Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Provides that a student whose 22nd birthday occurs during the school year is eligible for special education services through the end of the school year (rather than being eligible for services only until the day before his or her 22nd birthday). Effective immediately.

Public Act 102-0173 Provides that if a student turns 22 during the time in which the student's in-person instruction is suspended for a period of 3 months or more during the school year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, then the student is eligible for special education services through the end of the following school year (rather than being eligible for such services only until the day before the student's 22nd birthday). Effective immediately.

Public Act 102-0254 Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Provides that prior to the placement of a child in an out-of-state special education residential facility, the school district, Illinois placing agency, or court must offer to the child or the child's parent or guardian the option to place the child in a special education residential facility located within this State that provides treatment and services comparable to those provided by the out-of-state facility. Requires the school district, Illinois placing agency, or court to review annually the placement of a child in an out-of-state special education residential facility and to offer placement in a comparable facility located within this State. Effective immediately.

Public Act 102-0057 Amends the School Code. In provisions concerning the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services database, requires the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, through school districts, to provide to parents and guardians of students a copy of the Department of Human Services' guide titled "Understanding PUNS: A Guide to Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services" each year at the annual review meeting for the student's individualized education program (rather than requiring the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to inform parents and guardians of students through school districts about the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services waiting list). Effective immediately.

Public Act 102-0264 Reinserts the provisions of the introduced bill with the following change: Further amends the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities Act by removing a requirement that the Department of Human Services submit an annual report on vocational training programs and services to be filed with the Governor and the General Assembly on or before March 30 each year. Further amends the School Code. Provides that if a child is deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired or has an orthopedic impairment or physical disability (rather than is diagnosed with an orthopedic impairment or physical disability) and the child might be eligible to receive services from the Illinois School for the Deaf, the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, or the Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Roosevelt, the school district shall notify the parents, in writing, of the existence of these schools and the services they provide. Effective immediately.

Public Act 102-0514 Amends the Article of the School Code relating to children with disabilities. Provides that the State Superintendent of Education may determine that the location of the parent or guardian of a student is unknown after considering information submitted from the school district that last enrolled the student or from the school or special education facility providing special education and related services to meet the needs of the student. Provides that the information submitted to the State Superintendent must include an affidavit from that school district's superintendent or the facility's director attesting that the location of the parent or guardian is unknown and 4 items of documentary evidence that a minimum of 4 separate attempts were made to locate the parent or guardian. Provides that any determination by the State Superintendent that the location of a parent or guardian is unknown is final, but that any determination made by the State Superintendent is subject to review and reconsideration any time a parent's or guardian's location becomes known. Effective immediately.