



## **SB 226 ANALYSIS** (as of May 20, 2009)

### **House Amendment #1**

**House Amendment Sponsor:** Ryg

The bill contains “school accountability” provisions that were originally introduced in HB 744.

- Disallows the certification of a school district as being in “financial difficulty” arising as a result of the inability of the State to make timely reimbursements for mandated categorical grant payments or General State Aid payments
- Requires school district audits to address risk assessment of internal controls
- Requires school districts to use a competitive request for proposals process at least once every 5 years when contracting with a certified auditor
- Requires that before a Regional Superintendent of Schools may remove a school board member for willful failure to perform his duties, the Regional Superintendent must conduct an investigation and send a report of his findings to the State’s Attorney (if criminal activity is suspected), the school board president, the school district superintendent, the person who made a report resulting in an investigation, and the person who is the subject of the investigation
- Clarifies that the school district general counsel shall not have a financial interest in any school district business
- Requires every school district to adopt a policy allowing a person to report to the school board any alleged violations of board policy or state or federal law, and to have a resolution process in place for any such complaint
- Clarifies that a school board vacancy occurs whenever a sitting board member is convicted of specified violent crimes or other specific crimes or instances of official misconduct
- Requires the State’s Attorney to notify the school board president, the school district superintendent, the person who made the complaint, and the person who is the subject of the complaint upon the completion of the State’s Attorney investigation
- Requires each school board to adopt a formal, written financial policy, to develop a long-term financial plan, to develop a 5-year capital improvement plan, and to include an executive summary as part of the school district’s annual budget

- Requires each school board to establish an audit committee which may include members of the board or other persons who do not serve on the board
- Requires school board associations established in the School Code (IASB) to offer professional development and training to school board members on certain specific topics (i.e. school finance, collective bargaining, ethics, board governance principles)
- Sets in statute the expectation that school board members receive at least 4 hours of professional development and training per year
- Requires school board associations established in the School Code (IASB) to report to the General Assembly the board training topics offered and the number of school board members that availed themselves to the training

*This analysis was created by the Governmental Relations Department of the Illinois Association of School Boards.*