



Springfield, Illinois

APR 20 2001

IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

NUMBER 7 (2001)

**EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON REVISING
THE ILLINOIS SCHOOL CODE**

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our state's precious values of freedom, civility, and equality; and

WHEREAS, approximately 130,000 full and part-time public school teachers guide over 2,000,000 students in 4,290 public schools in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, as prescribed by Article X of the Illinois Constitution, a fundamental goal of the people of the State of Illinois is the education development of all persons to the limits of their capacities; and

WHEREAS, the School Code of Illinois took effect forty years ago, on July 1, 1961; and

WHEREAS, due to repeated amendments to the Code over the past forty years, the Code today contains outdated and inconsistent language; obsolete, overlapping and conflicting provisions; and confusing organizational structure that makes it difficult for educators, parents, the legal community and the general public to understand and use the School Code; and

WHEREAS, the State educational system has undergone a fundamental shift to standards-led reform in recent years, focusing on student achievement as the primary result of the educational system, and thus requiring substantial redesign of State policies, procedures and programs; and

WHEREAS, in order for the State to provide for an effective and efficient system of high quality public educational institutions and services, a comprehensive revision of the School Code to correct the foregoing deficiencies and reforms would be in the best interest of all whom use or rely on the School Code.

THEREFORE, I, George H. Ryan, order the following:

I. The creation of a Governor's Commission on Revising the School Code (GCRSC) in the State of Illinois.

II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the GCRSC shall include, but not limited to, the following:

A. Conduct a comprehensive study and analysis of the existing School Code; and

- B. Prepare a proposed revision of the School Code to update its language, to correct obsolete, overlapping and conflicting provisions so that it will be more easily applied and understood by educators, parents, the legal community and the general public.
- C. Propose new provisions which address the changing nature of education which will ensure that educational system of Illinois is the best it can be for all its citizens; and
- D. To make other non-substantive changes to the Code in order to improve the Code's overall organization, readability, and ease of use.

III. MEMBERSHIP

- A. The voting members of the GCRSC shall consist of not more than 40 members appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall designate a Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons.
- B. Members may include, but are not limited to, school board members, school administrators, teachers, school attorneys, university professors, representatives of education interest groups and members of the public. The members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- C. Members of the GCRSC shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the GCRSC unless prohibited by any law or regulation.
- D. The GCRSC shall be provided assistance and necessary staff of the Legislative Reference Bureau and support services by the Office of the Governor and the agencies of state government involved in the issues to be addressed by it.
- E. The GCRSC shall seek the input and participation of other departments, agencies, boards and commissions, units of government, private organizations, public interest groups and educational organizations as necessary or appropriate.

III. MEETINGS:

The entire GCRSC shall meet at least quarterly or upon the call of the Chairpersons or a majority of the members. A quorum of the GCRSC shall consist of a majority of the members.

IV. REPORT:

The GCRSC shall submit a final report to the Governor and the Illinois General Assembly by January 1, 2003.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE:

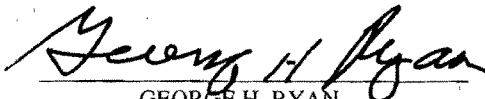
This Executive Order Number 7 (2001) shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

FILED
INDEX DEPARTMENT

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IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE


GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor