



## NEWS ...

*From ... State Representative Lou Lang (D-Skokie)*

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For Immediate Release  
26 February 2009

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### **House Ok's Bill to Fire State Education Board, Curtail Gov's Power to Appoint Board; Superintendent Could be Booted**

(Springfield, IL) – The Illinois House yesterday approved legislation, 91-24, that would end the terms of the current nine-member Illinois State Board of Education, strip the governor's power to directly appoint board members, and curb the governor's prerogative to propose a state superintendent candidate to the board.

Sponsored by State Rep. Lou Lang (D-Skokie), the bill creates a new and permanent seven-member nomination panel that would identify, evaluate, and submit a list of qualified education board candidates to the Governor for his or her consideration.

““This bill would reform the State Board (of Education) by taking it farther away from the political system,” said Lang.

Lang's proposal empowers a new state board of education to fire the current superintendent if it chooses.

The House approval of Lang's proposal is a dramatic reversal for the legislature.

In 2004, lawmakers gave the Governor's authority to bring the state board more directly under the office's control, granting former Governor Rod Blagojevich the power to immediately appoint seven board members.

Lang said he has no opposition to the current board.

“I just want to get to a point where this board is no longer beholden to the governor in any way, shape or form,” he said.

State Board of Education board is neutral on Lang's bill.

Last year, the House approved an identical measure 86-21.

The legislation's key provisions include:

### **Nomination Panel & Board Member Selection Process**

Within 30 days after the effective date of this bill, the Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State must establish a 7-member Panel of educators by majority vote. Sixty-days after the Panel is established, it must recommend 27 nominees for appointment to the Board. The Governor has 30 days to choose 9 appointees from the Panel's list which includes chairman.

### **Board Members**

Under this bill, one member of the Board must be a former school board member, one must be a former district superintendent, one must be a former teacher, and one must have significant business experience. The Board members shall have staggered terms to ensure continuity.

### **State Superintendent of Education**

The bill allows the new Board to appoint a new State Superintendent of Education. However, the Governor is no longer given the option to propose a Superintendent. Moreover, it will no longer be necessary to appoint a Superintendent at the beginning of each term of the Governor. The Superintendent's contract will remain a 4-year contract, but his/her contract can be renewed, unlike current law where a Superintendent can only serve for 4 years.

### **Budget**

The bill requires Illinois State Board of Education to submit to the legislature any information it submits to the Governor or his/her Office of Management and Budget (estimate of receipts and expenditures, budget figures, etc.). The Board also would be required to submit an "ideal world" budget to the state lawmakers in addition to a "real world" proposal.

The legislation now moves to the Senate for consideration.