

# **HBOL-5011**

**95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
State of Illinois  
2007 and 2008  
HBOL 5011**

Introduced 2/01/2008, by Rep. Andrew Dambrauskas

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

Creates the Equal Arts Funding Act of 2008. Requires school districts to implement and adequately staff and fund sustainable fine arts curricula.

**A BILL FOR**

An Act to create the “Equal Arts Funding Act of 2008.”

**Be it enacted by the People of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly.**

Section I As used in this article, the term:

(1) 'Fine Arts' means any class or program that involves instrumental music, vocal music, theater, dance, or audio/visual art.

(2) 'Highly Qualified Teacher' means a qualified individual who meets the standards of a professional educator as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Section II Be it enacted that all school districts under the jurisdiction of the Illinois State Board of Education shall be required to include a fine arts curriculum at all junior high schools and high schools.

Section III All high schools shall be required to include at least one year of a completed fine arts course in its required curriculum for graduation.

Section IV School districts shall be required to employ at least one highly qualified teacher in the field of fine arts at each of its middle schools and high schools.

Section V School districts shall be required to make room in their budgets to provide funding to its member schools' fine arts programs that is, at a minimum, equal to the amount of funding provided for athletic programs by the 2010-2011 school year.

Section VI The Illinois State Board of Education shall continue to provide grants to school districts that display a need for assistance with the planning or growth of fine arts curriculum within their districts. The Illinois State Board of Education shall provide at

least \$5 million in grants to needy districts.

Section VII The state shall not be held accountable for reimbursement of any costs associated with the initiative. School districts that require financial aid should apply for grants through the Illinois State Board of Education, where need-based awards shall be given.

Section VIII School districts that fail to comply with this act will be subject to having member schools placed on the Academic Warning list, effective from the school year of violation until the school year in which member schools begin to fulfill all requirements provided in this act.