



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5923

by Rep. Janet Yang Rohr

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act  
105 ILCS 5/27A-5

Creates the Mobile Panic Alert System Act. Provides that the Act may be referred to as Alyssa's Law. Requires, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each public school to implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies. Requires, for the 2026 fiscal year, the State Board of Education to issue a competitive solicitation to contract for a mobile panic alert system that may be used by each school district. Amends the Charter Schools Law of the School Code to make a conforming change. Effective January 1, 2026.

LRB103 43522 LNS 76858 b

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title; references to Act. This Act may be  
5 cited as the Mobile Panic Alert System Act. This Act may be  
6 referred to as Alyssa's Law.

7 Section 5. Mobile panic alert system.

8 (a) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each public  
9 school, including a charter school, shall implement a mobile  
10 panic alert system capable of connecting diverse emergency  
11 services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between  
12 multiple first responder agencies. Such system, to be known as  
13 "Alyssa's Alert", must integrate with local public safety  
14 answering point infrastructure to transmit 9-1-1 calls and  
15 mobile activations.

16 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a), a  
17 school district may implement additional strategies or systems  
18 to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first  
19 responder agencies in a school security emergency.

20 (c) For the 2026 fiscal year, the State Board of Education  
21 shall issue a competitive solicitation to contract for a  
22 mobile panic alert system that may be used by each school  
23 district. The State Board shall consult with the Illinois

1 State Police and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency in  
2 the development of the competitive solicitation for the mobile  
3 panic alert system.

4 Section 90. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 27A-5 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27A-5)

7 (Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 102-466)

8 Sec. 27A-5. Charter school; legal entity; requirements.

9 (a) A charter school shall be a public, nonsectarian,  
10 nonreligious, non-home based, and non-profit school. A charter  
11 school shall be organized and operated as a nonprofit  
12 corporation or other discrete, legal, nonprofit entity  
13 authorized under the laws of the State of Illinois.

14 (b) A charter school may be established under this Article  
15 by creating a new school or by converting an existing public  
16 school or attendance center to charter school status. In all  
17 new applications to establish a charter school in a city  
18 having a population exceeding 500,000, operation of the  
19 charter school shall be limited to one campus. This limitation  
20 does not apply to charter schools existing or approved on or  
21 before April 16, 2003.

22 (b-5) (Blank).

23 (c) A charter school shall be administered and governed by  
24 its board of directors or other governing body in the manner

1 provided in its charter. The governing body of a charter  
2 school shall be subject to the Freedom of Information Act and  
3 the Open Meetings Act. A charter school's board of directors  
4 or other governing body must include at least one parent or  
5 guardian of a pupil currently enrolled in the charter school  
6 who may be selected through the charter school or a charter  
7 network election, appointment by the charter school's board of  
8 directors or other governing body, or by the charter school's  
9 Parent Teacher Organization or its equivalent.

10 (c-5) No later than January 1, 2021 or within the first  
11 year of his or her first term, every voting member of a charter  
12 school's board of directors or other governing body shall  
13 complete a minimum of 4 hours of professional development  
14 leadership training to ensure that each member has sufficient  
15 familiarity with the board's or governing body's role and  
16 responsibilities, including financial oversight and  
17 accountability of the school, evaluating the principal's and  
18 school's performance, adherence to the Freedom of Information  
19 Act and the Open Meetings Act, and compliance with education  
20 and labor law. In each subsequent year of his or her term, a  
21 voting member of a charter school's board of directors or  
22 other governing body shall complete a minimum of 2 hours of  
23 professional development training in these same areas. The  
24 training under this subsection may be provided or certified by  
25 a statewide charter school membership association or may be  
26 provided or certified by other qualified providers approved by

1 the State Board.

2 (d) For purposes of this subsection (d), "non-curricular  
3 health and safety requirement" means any health and safety  
4 requirement created by statute or rule to provide, maintain,  
5 preserve, or safeguard safe or healthful conditions for  
6 students and school personnel or to eliminate, reduce, or  
7 prevent threats to the health and safety of students and  
8 school personnel. "Non-curricular health and safety  
9 requirement" does not include any course of study or  
10 specialized instructional requirement for which the State  
11 Board has established goals and learning standards or which is  
12 designed primarily to impart knowledge and skills for students  
13 to master and apply as an outcome of their education.

14 A charter school shall comply with all non-curricular  
15 health and safety requirements applicable to public schools  
16 under the laws of the State of Illinois. The State Board shall  
17 promulgate and post on its Internet website a list of  
18 non-curricular health and safety requirements that a charter  
19 school must meet. The list shall be updated annually no later  
20 than September 1. Any charter contract between a charter  
21 school and its authorizer must contain a provision that  
22 requires the charter school to follow the list of all  
23 non-curricular health and safety requirements promulgated by  
24 the State Board and any non-curricular health and safety  
25 requirements added by the State Board to such list during the  
26 term of the charter. Nothing in this subsection (d) precludes

1 an authorizer from including non-curricular health and safety  
2 requirements in a charter school contract that are not  
3 contained in the list promulgated by the State Board,  
4 including non-curricular health and safety requirements of the  
5 authorizing local school board.

6 (e) Except as otherwise provided in the School Code, a  
7 charter school shall not charge tuition; provided that a  
8 charter school may charge reasonable fees for textbooks,  
9 instructional materials, and student activities.

10 (f) A charter school shall be responsible for the  
11 management and operation of its fiscal affairs, including, but  
12 not limited to, the preparation of its budget. An audit of each  
13 charter school's finances shall be conducted annually by an  
14 outside, independent contractor retained by the charter  
15 school. The contractor shall not be an employee of the charter  
16 school or affiliated with the charter school or its authorizer  
17 in any way, other than to audit the charter school's finances.  
18 To ensure financial accountability for the use of public  
19 funds, on or before December 1 of every year of operation, each  
20 charter school shall submit to its authorizer and the State  
21 Board a copy of its audit and a copy of the Form 990 the  
22 charter school filed that year with the federal Internal  
23 Revenue Service. In addition, if deemed necessary for proper  
24 financial oversight of the charter school, an authorizer may  
25 require quarterly financial statements from each charter  
26 school.

1 (g) A charter school shall comply with all provisions of  
2 this Article, the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act,  
3 all federal and State laws and rules applicable to public  
4 schools that pertain to special education and the instruction  
5 of English learners, and its charter. A charter school is  
6 exempt from all other State laws and regulations in this Code  
7 governing public schools and local school board policies;  
8 however, a charter school is not exempt from the following:

9 (1) Sections 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 of this Code  
10 regarding criminal history records checks and checks of  
11 the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Statewide Murderer  
12 and Violent Offender Against Youth Database of applicants  
13 for employment;

14 (2) Sections 10-20.14, 10-22.6, 22-100, 24-24, 34-19,  
15 and 34-84a of this Code regarding discipline of students;

16 (3) the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees  
17 Tort Immunity Act;

18 (4) Section 108.75 of the General Not For Profit  
19 Corporation Act of 1986 regarding indemnification of  
20 officers, directors, employees, and agents;

21 (5) the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act;

22 (5.5) subsection (b) of Section 10-23.12 and  
23 subsection (b) of Section 34-18.6 of this Code;

24 (6) the Illinois School Student Records Act;

25 (7) Section 10-17a of this Code regarding school  
26 report cards;

- 1 (8) the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act;
- 2 (9) Section 27-23.7 of this Code regarding bullying
- 3 prevention;
- 4 (10) Section 2-3.162 of this Code regarding student
- 5 discipline reporting;
- 6 (11) Sections 22-80 and 27-8.1 of this Code;
- 7 (12) Sections 10-20.60 and 34-18.53 of this Code;
- 8 (13) Sections 10-20.63 and 34-18.56 of this Code;
- 9 (14) Sections 22-90 and 26-18 of this Code;
- 10 (15) Section 22-30 of this Code;
- 11 (16) Sections 24-12 and 34-85 of this Code;
- 12 (17) the Seizure Smart School Act;
- 13 (18) Section 2-3.64a-10 of this Code;
- 14 (19) Sections 10-20.73 and 34-21.9 of this Code;
- 15 (20) Section 10-22.25b of this Code;
- 16 (21) Section 27-9.1a of this Code;
- 17 (22) Section 27-9.1b of this Code;
- 18 (23) Section 34-18.8 of this Code;
- 19 (25) Section 2-3.188 of this Code;
- 20 (26) Section 22-85.5 of this Code;
- 21 (27) subsections (d-10), (d-15), and (d-20) of Section
- 22 10-20.56 of this Code;
- 23 (28) Sections 10-20.83 and 34-18.78 of this Code;
- 24 (29) Section 10-20.13 of this Code;
- 25 (30) Section 28-19.2 of this Code;
- 26 (31) Section 34-21.6 of this Code;



- 1 (32) Section 22-85.10 of this Code;  
2 (33) Section 2-3.196 of this Code;  
3 (34) Section 22-95 of this Code;  
4 (35) Section 34-18.62 of this Code;  
5 (36) the Illinois Human Rights Act; ~~and~~  
6 (37) Section 2-3.204 of this Code; ~~and~~  
7 (38) the Mobile Panic Alert System Act.

8 The change made by Public Act 96-104 to this subsection  
9 (g) is declaratory of existing law.

10 (h) A charter school may negotiate and contract with a  
11 school district, the governing body of a State college or  
12 university or public community college, or any other public or  
13 for-profit or nonprofit private entity for: (i) the use of a  
14 school building and grounds or any other real property or  
15 facilities that the charter school desires to use or convert  
16 for use as a charter school site, (ii) the operation and  
17 maintenance thereof, and (iii) the provision of any service,  
18 activity, or undertaking that the charter school is required  
19 to perform in order to carry out the terms of its charter.  
20 Except as provided in subsection (i) of this Section, a school  
21 district may charge a charter school reasonable rent for the  
22 use of the district's buildings, grounds, and facilities. Any  
23 services for which a charter school contracts with a school  
24 district shall be provided by the district at cost. Any  
25 services for which a charter school contracts with a local  
26 school board or with the governing body of a State college or

1 university or public community college shall be provided by  
2 the public entity at cost.

3 (i) In no event shall a charter school that is established  
4 by converting an existing school or attendance center to  
5 charter school status be required to pay rent for space that is  
6 deemed available, as negotiated and provided in the charter  
7 agreement, in school district facilities. However, all other  
8 costs for the operation and maintenance of school district  
9 facilities that are used by the charter school shall be  
10 subject to negotiation between the charter school and the  
11 local school board and shall be set forth in the charter.

12 (j) A charter school may limit student enrollment by age  
13 or grade level.

14 (k) If the charter school is authorized by the State  
15 Board, then the charter school is its own local education  
16 agency.

17 (Source: P.A. 102-51, eff. 7-9-21; 102-157, eff. 7-1-22;  
18 102-360, eff. 1-1-22; 102-445, eff. 8-20-21; 102-522, eff.  
19 8-20-21; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21; 102-676, eff. 12-3-21;  
20 102-697, eff. 4-5-22; 102-702, eff. 7-1-23; 102-805, eff.  
21 1-1-23; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-175,  
22 eff. 6-30-23; 103-472, eff. 8-1-24; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24;  
23 103-641, eff. 7-1-24; 103-806, eff. 1-1-25; revised 10-9-24.)

24 (Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 102-466)

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2 nonreligious, non-home based, and non-profit school. A charter  
3 school shall be organized and operated as a nonprofit  
4 corporation or other discrete, legal, nonprofit entity  
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10 having a population exceeding 500,000, operation of the  
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12 does not apply to charter schools existing or approved on or  
13 before April 16, 2003.

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16 its board of directors or other governing body in the manner  
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18 school shall be subject to the Freedom of Information Act and  
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20 or other governing body must include at least one parent or  
21 guardian of a pupil currently enrolled in the charter school  
22 who may be selected through the charter school or a charter  
23 network election, appointment by the charter school's board of  
24 directors or other governing body, or by the charter school's  
25 Parent Teacher Organization or its equivalent.

26           (c-5) No later than January 1, 2021 or within the first

1 year of his or her first term, every voting member of a charter  
2 school's board of directors or other governing body shall  
3 complete a minimum of 4 hours of professional development  
4 leadership training to ensure that each member has sufficient  
5 familiarity with the board's or governing body's role and  
6 responsibilities, including financial oversight and  
7 accountability of the school, evaluating the principal's and  
8 school's performance, adherence to the Freedom of Information  
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11 voting member of a charter school's board of directors or  
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- 6 (21) Section 27-9.1a of this Code;
- 7 (22) Section 27-9.1b of this Code;
- 8 (23) Section 34-18.8 of this Code;
- 9 (24) Article 26A of this Code;
- 10 (25) Section 2-3.188 of this Code;
- 11 (26) Section 22-85.5 of this Code;
- 12 (27) subsections (d-10), (d-15), and (d-20) of Section
- 13 10-20.56 of this Code;
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- 17 (31) Section 34-21.6 of this Code;
- 18 (32) Section 22-85.10 of this Code;
- 19 (33) Section 2-3.196 of this Code;
- 20 (34) Section 22-95 of this Code;
- 21 (35) Section 34-18.62 of this Code;
- 22 (36) the Illinois Human Rights Act; ~~and~~
- 23 (37) Section 2-3.204 of this Code; ~~and~~
- 24 (38) the Mobile Panic Alert System Act.

25 The change made by Public Act 96-104 to this subsection  
26 (g) is declaratory of existing law.



1           (h) A charter school may negotiate and contract with a  
2 school district, the governing body of a State college or  
3 university or public community college, or any other public or  
4 for-profit or nonprofit private entity for: (i) the use of a  
5 school building and grounds or any other real property or  
6 facilities that the charter school desires to use or convert  
7 for use as a charter school site, (ii) the operation and  
8 maintenance thereof, and (iii) the provision of any service,  
9 activity, or undertaking that the charter school is required  
10 to perform in order to carry out the terms of its charter.  
11 Except as provided in subsection (i) of this Section, a school  
12 district may charge a charter school reasonable rent for the  
13 use of the district's buildings, grounds, and facilities. Any  
14 services for which a charter school contracts with a school  
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23 deemed available, as negotiated and provided in the charter  
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25 costs for the operation and maintenance of school district  
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1 subject to negotiation between the charter school and the  
2 local school board and shall be set forth in the charter.

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4 or grade level.

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6 Board, then the charter school is its own local education  
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8 (Source: P.A. 102-51, eff. 7-9-21; 102-157, eff. 7-1-22;  
9 102-360, eff. 1-1-22; 102-445, eff. 8-20-21; 102-466, eff.  
10 7-1-25; 102-522, eff. 8-20-21; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21; 102-676,  
11 eff. 12-3-21; 102-697, eff. 4-5-22; 102-702, eff. 7-1-23;  
12 102-805, eff. 1-1-23; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 103-154, eff.  
13 6-30-23; 103-175, eff. 6-30-23; 103-472, eff. 8-1-24; 103-605,  
14 eff. 7-1-24; 103-641, eff. 7-1-24; 103-806, eff. 1-1-25;  
15 revised 11-26-24.)

16 Section 95. No acceleration or delay. Where this Act makes  
17 changes in a statute that is represented in this Act by text  
18 that is not yet or no longer in effect (for example, a Section  
19 represented by multiple versions), the use of that text does  
20 not accelerate or delay the taking effect of (i) the changes  
21 made by this Act or (ii) provisions derived from any other  
22 Public Act.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
24 1, 2026.