



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Vision 20/20 gets third bill signed by Governor Rauner**  
**SB 2912 Address's Teacher Shortage, Easier Access for Educators Trained**  
**Outside Illinois**

*Passage of this bill marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> legislative victory for state's leading education group*

**CHICAGO** (January 17, 2017) – Streamlining the licensure process for educators providing greater access to Illinois schools, are just some of the benefits Governor Bruce Rauner signed into law on January 6 as he signed Senate Bill 2912 (now Public Act 99-0920) into law. The bill signing took place at Carbondale Community High School and marks the third bill passed into law on behalf of the Vision 20/20 group. SB 2912 was sponsored by now-retired Sen. Dave Luechtefeld (R-Okawville) and Rep. Fred Crespo (D-Hoffman Estates) and received support from both parties and passed both chambers with no opposing votes.

Vision 20/20 has been pushing for changes in teacher licensure since the group officially launched in November of 2014. “One of the four main pillars of Vision 20/20 is Highly Effective Educators and licensure reciprocity and streamlining the licensure process were key goals,” said Dr. Brent Clark, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA). “Senate Bill 2912 is a good step toward helping alleviate the critical shortage of substitute teachers in our state.”

Clark cited the example of public schools in Peoria beginning the 2016 school year with more than 60 unfilled positions and said such instances are becoming more common across the state.

Jeff Vose, President of the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools also believes the new law will go a long way in helping reduce the state’s teacher shortage. “There is a dramatic need in every area of the state, urban and rural; in upstate, downstate and central Illinois. Schools in Illinois



have a serious shortage of teachers and need greater access to substitute teachers. This legislation will definitely help, by removing unnecessary roadblocks.”

Some of the key provisions of SB 2912 include:

- Reducing the license fee for substitute teachers from \$100 to \$50;
- Creating a one-year grace period for retired teachers with lapsed licenses to bring their license into good standing without fines or coursework, allowing them to sub;
- Preventing educators who retire mid-cycle from having their licenses lapse, allowing them to sub;
- Allowing educators licensed in other states to obtain an Illinois license through a more streamlined process, enabling Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to grant licenses based on comparable out-of-state licenses instead of comparing preparatory programs from other states;
- Applying content area tests from other states for out-of-state licensees seeking an Illinois license; and
- Creating a provisional in-state endorsement on a provisional educator license with stipulations to allow candidates who have met all other requirements except passage of edTPA. This would allow candidates one additional year to pass the assessment while teaching.

For more information on this bill and Vision 20/20, please visit <http://illinoisvision2020.org>

### **About Vision 20/20**

The Vision 20/20 initiative began in November 2012 under Dr. Clark’s organization and then partnered with the Illinois Principals association (IPA), the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), the Superintendents’ Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity (SCSDD), and the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS) to unite the education community and develop a long-range blueprint for improving public education in Illinois.

Vision 20/20’s policy platform reflects educators from across the state and is representative of opinions from the southern tip of Illinois through the northern Chicago suburbs. This vision is the result of input from over 3,000 key stakeholders, discussions with field experts, and a review of current literature on best practices.

Alliance membership includes the following organizations and leaders:

**Brent Clark, Ph.D.**, Executive Director - Illinois Association of School Administrators



**Jason Leahy**, Executive Director - Illinois Principals Association

**Michael A. Jacoby, Ed.D.**, Executive Director - Illinois Association of School Business Officials

**Jeff Vose**, President - Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools

**Roger L. Eddy**, Executive Director - Illinois Association of School Boards

**Creg Williams, Ed.D.**, President - Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity

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