

**House Bill 1079
DUAL CREDIT QUALITY ACT
Rep. Roger Eddy**

IEA POSITION: SUPPORT

Background: The Dual Credit Task Force was established in HJR 36 (Rep. Eddy/Sen. Righter). The legislation grew out of discussions within the IEA Higher Education Council. The Council identified dual credit quality as one of its priorities for the past several years. Two IEA members (one community college faculty member and one K-12 teacher) served on the Task Force.

Analysis: This bill establishes the Dual Credit Quality Act. Hearings were held during 2008 to highlight the importance and availability of quality, dual credit classes.

The purpose of the dual credit system overhaul is: 1) To reduce college costs; 2) To speed time to degree completion; 3) To improve the curriculum for high school students and the alignment of the curriculum with college and workplace expectations; 4) To facilitate the transition between high school and college; 5) To enhance communication between high schools and colleges; and 6) To offer opportunities for improving degree attainment for underserved student populations.

The Act instructs the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to develop policies to ensure a student is prepared for dual credit coursework.

The Act also establishes strengthening standards for dual credit coursework offerings. A number of requirements will help to ensure the dual credit instructor is qualified to offer the course.

The ICCB and the IBHE are also given the authority to review dual credit programs and to aid with evaluation of courses.