

# SUPPORT SB1519 - STOP FINING STUDENTS

## SPONSORS: SEN. KARINA VILLA & REP. LA SHAWN K. FORD



### THE ISSUE - WHAT IS STUDENT TICKETING?

Thousands of Illinois students are issued tickets for municipal ordinance violations, often resulting in hundreds of dollars in fines and administrative fees. Although the Illinois School Code sought to eliminate fines and fees as a form of school discipline, many school administrators still refer students to police who then issue tickets for municipal ordinance violations. One of the most cited causes for these tickets is substance use, with 37% of communities across 178 municipalities citing it as their top cause between 2019-2023. Student ticketing...

#### Is Discriminatory and Impacts Thousands of Students

In 2022, ProPublica and the Chicago Tribune published an investigation that analyzed ticketing data for 86% of all public high school students in Illinois. The investigation found...

- Tickets were issued in **over 70% of the school districts**
- **11,800 tickets were issued** between 2019-2021
- Black students were **disproportionately impacted**

#### Is Prohibited by Law

In a 2024 investigation, the Illinois Attorney General's Office found that the practice of **ticketing students for school-based conduct is illegal** and urged school districts and police departments to review their policies.

#### Forces Students to Miss Class to Attend Hearings

When issued a ticket students must miss classroom time to attend a municipal hearing. This practice creates a new form of exclusionary discipline, which **does not make schools safer** and **may worsen academic outcomes** by undermining school-wide trust.

#### Does Not Stop Misbehavior or Substance Use

New research on addiction treatment suggests that punitive measures like **ticketing for vaping can have a harmful effect** on addressing substance use and are "likely to drive youth into a deeper, more secretive addiction."

#### Places an Undue Financial Burden on Families

Fines associated with tickets **range from \$100 to \$750**, plus administrative fees—the equivalent of multiple days of work for a single parent making minimum wage in Illinois.

#### Pushes Students into a System Designed for Adults

Unlike juvenile court proceedings, municipal ticket **proceedings and outcomes are public**, cases can only be expunged under very limited circumstances, and **youth have no right to counsel**.

### THE BILL - WHAT IS SB1519?

#### What it DOES do:

- Prohibits students from receiving a ticket for a municipal ordinance violation during school as a disciplinary consequence
- Requires public reporting of law enforcement referrals
- Requires schools that use SROs to create an MOU with local law enforcement agencies

#### What it does NOT do:

- Prohibit school resource officers from working within schools.
- Limit discretionary or mandatory school reporting to law enforcement in response to criminal offenses.
- Restrict the ability of schools to discipline a student under school discipline policies for prohibited behaviors.
- Limit the ability of schools to seek monetary restitution or evidence-based restorative measures in the cases of lost, stolen, or damaged property.