

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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

4 Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by adding Section 913 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/913 new)

8 Sec. 913. Clean Water Workforce Pipeline Program.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds the following:

10 (1) The fresh surface water and groundwater supply in
11 Illinois and Lake Michigan constitute vital natural
12 resources that require careful stewardship and protection
13 for future generations. Access to safe and clean drinking
14 water is the right of all Illinois residents.

15 (2) To adequately protect these resources and provide
16 safe and clean drinking water, substantial investment is
17 needed to replace lead components in drinking water
18 infrastructure, improve wastewater treatment, flood
19 control, and stormwater management, control aquatic
20 invasive species, implement green infrastructure
21 solutions, and implement other infrastructure solutions to
22 protect water quality.

23 (3) Implementing these clean water solutions will

1 require a skilled and trained workforce, and new
2 investments will demand additional workers with
3 specialized skills.

4 (4) Water infrastructure jobs have been shown to
5 provide living wages and contribute to Illinois' economy.

6 (5) Significant populations of Illinois residents,
7 including, but not limited to, residents of environmental
8 justice communities, economically and socially
9 disadvantaged communities, those returning from the
10 criminal justice system, foster care alumni, and in
11 particular women and transgender persons, are in need of
12 access to skilled living wage jobs like those in the water
13 infrastructure sector.

14 (6) Many of these residents are more likely to live in
15 communities with aging and inadequate clean water
16 infrastructure and suffer from threats to surface and
17 drinking water quality.

18 (7) The State can provide significant economic
19 opportunities to these residents and achieve greater
20 environmental and public health by investing in clean water
21 infrastructure.

22 (8) New training, recruitment, support, and placement
23 efforts are needed to connect these residents with career
24 opportunities in water infrastructure.

25 (9) The State must invest in both clean water
26 infrastructure and workforce development efforts in order

1 to achieve these goals.

2 (b) From appropriations made from the Build Illinois Bond
3 Fund, Capital Development Fund, or General Revenue Fund or
4 other funds as identified by the Department, the Department
5 shall create a Clean Water Workforce Pipeline Program to
6 provide grants and other financial assistance to prepare and
7 support individuals for careers in water infrastructure. All
8 funding provided by the Program under this Section shall be
9 designed to encourage and facilitate employment in projects
10 funded through State capital investment and provide
11 participants a skill set to allow them to work professionally
12 in fields related to water infrastructure.

13 Grants and other financial assistance may be made available
14 on a competitive annual basis to organizations that demonstrate
15 a capacity to recruit, support, train, and place individuals in
16 water infrastructure careers, including, but not limited to,
17 community organizations, educational institutions, workforce
18 investment boards, community action agencies, and multi-craft
19 labor organizations for new efforts specifically focused on
20 engaging residents of environmental justice communities,
21 economically and socially disadvantaged communities, those
22 returning from the criminal justice system, foster care alumni,
23 and in particular women and transgender persons in these
24 populations.

25 Grants and other financial assistance shall be awarded on a
26 competitive and annual basis for the following activities:

1 (1) identification of individuals for job training in
2 the water sector;

3 (2) counseling, preparation, skills training, and
4 other support to increase a candidate's likelihood of
5 success in a job training program and career;

6 (3) financial support for individuals in a water sector
7 job skills training program, support services, and
8 transportation assistance tied to training under this
9 Section;

10 (4) job placement services for individuals during and
11 after completion of water sector job skills training
12 programs; and

13 (5) financial, administrative, and management
14 assistance for organizations engaged in these activities.

15 (c) It shall be an annual goal of the Program to train and
16 place at least 300, or 25% of the number of annual jobs created
17 by State financed water infrastructure projects, whichever is
18 greater, of the following persons in water sector-related
19 apprenticeships annually: residents of environmental justice
20 communities; residents of economically and socially
21 disadvantaged communities; those returning from the criminal
22 justice system; foster care alumni; and, in particular, women
23 and transgender persons. In awarding and administering grants
24 under this Program, the Department shall strive to provide
25 assistance equitably throughout the State.

26 In order to encourage the employment of individuals trained

1 through the Program onto projects receiving State financial
2 assistance, the Department shall coordinate with the Illinois
3 Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Finance
4 Authority, and other State agencies that provide financial
5 support for water infrastructure projects. These agencies
6 shall take steps to support attaining the training and
7 placement goals set forth in this subsection, using a list of
8 projects that receive State financial support. These agencies
9 may propose and adopt rules to facilitate the attainment of
10 this goal.

11 Using funds appropriated for the purposes of this Section,
12 the Department may select through a competitive bidding process
13 a Program Administrator to oversee the allocation of funds and
14 select organizations that receive funding.

15 Recipients of grants under the Program shall report
16 annually to the Department on the success of their efforts and
17 their contribution to reaching the goals of the Program
18 provided in this subsection. The Department shall compile this
19 information and annually report to the General Assembly on the
20 Program, including, but not limited to, the following
21 information:

22 (1) progress toward the goals stated in this
23 subsection;

24 (2) any increase in the percentage of water industry
25 jobs in targeted populations;

26 (3) any increase in the rate of acceptance, completion,

1 or retention of water training programs among targeted
2 populations;

3 (4) any increase in the rate of employment, including
4 hours and annual income, measured against pre-Program
5 participant income; and

6 (5) any recommendations for future changes to optimize
7 the success of the Program.

8 (d) Within 90 days after the effective date of this
9 amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly, the Department
10 shall propose a draft plan to implement this Section for public
11 comment. The Department shall allow a minimum of 60 days for
12 public comment on the plan, including one or more public
13 hearings, if requested. The Department shall finalize the plan
14 within 180 days of the effective date of this amendatory Act of
15 the 101st General Assembly.

16 The Department may propose and adopt any rules necessary
17 for the implementation of the Program and to ensure compliance
18 with this Section.

19 (e) The Water Workforce Development Fund is created as a
20 special fund in the State treasury. The Fund shall receive
21 moneys appropriated for the purpose of this Section from the
22 Build Illinois Bond Fund, the Capital Development Fund, the
23 General Revenue Fund and any other funds. Moneys in the Fund
24 shall only be used to fund the Program and to assist and enable
25 implementation of clean water infrastructure capital
26 investments. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the

1 Water Workforce Development Fund is not subject to sweeps,
2 administrative charge-backs, or any other fiscal or budgetary
3 maneuver that would in any way transfer any amounts from the
4 Water Workforce Development Fund into any other fund of the
5 State.

6 (f) For purpose of this Section:

7 "Environmental justice community" has the meaning provided
8 in subsection (b) of Section 1-50 of the Illinois Power Agency
9 Act.

10 "Multi-craft labor organization" means a joint
11 labor-management apprenticeship program registered with and
12 approved by the United States Department of Labor's Office of
13 Apprenticeship or a labor organization that has an accredited
14 training program through the Higher Learning Commission or the
15 Illinois Community College Board.

16 "Organization" means a corporation, company, partnership,
17 association, society, order, labor organization, or individual
18 or aggregation of individuals.

19 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
20 Section 5.891 as follows:

21 (30 ILCS 105/5.891 new)

22 Sec. 5.891. The Water Workforce Development Fund.