

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 605-1020 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-1020 new)

8 Sec. 605-1020. Entrepreneur Learner's Permit pilot
9 program.

10 (a) There is hereby established an Entrepreneur Learner's
11 Permit pilot program that shall be administered by the
12 Department on and after July 1, 2017 and prior to June 30,
13 2019. The purpose of the program shall be to encourage and
14 assist first-time entrepreneurs in starting new information
15 services, biotechnology, and green technology businesses by
16 providing reimbursements to those entrepreneurs for any State
17 filing, permitting, or licensing fees associated with the
18 formation of such a business in the State.

19 (b) Applicants for participation in the Entrepreneur
20 Learner's Permit pilot program shall apply to the Department,
21 in a form and manner prescribed by the Department, prior to the
22 formation of the business for which the entrepreneur seeks
23 reimbursement of those fees. The Department shall adopt rules

1 for the review and approval of applications, provided that it
2 (1) shall give priority to applicants who are female or
3 minority persons, or both, and (2) shall not approve any
4 application by a person who will not be a first-time business
5 owner. Reimbursements under this Section shall be provided in
6 the manner determined by the Department.

7 (c) The aggregate amount of all reimbursements provided by
8 the Department pursuant to this Section shall not exceed
9 \$500,000 in any State fiscal year.

10 (d) On or before February 1, 2019, the Department shall
11 submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the
12 cumulative effectiveness of the Entrepreneur Learner's Permit
13 pilot program. The review shall include, but not be limited to,
14 the number and type of businesses that were formed in
15 connection with the pilot program, the current status of each
16 business formed in connection with the pilot program, the
17 number of employees employed by each such business, the
18 economic impact to the State from the pilot program, the
19 satisfaction of participants in the pilot program, and a
20 recommendation as to whether the program should be continued
21 beyond June 30, 2019.

22 (e) As used in this Section, the terms "female" and
23 "minority person" have the meanings given to those terms in the
24 Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females, and Persons with
25 Disabilities Act.

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,

1 2017.