

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) Subject to appropriation, there is hereby established
11 an Entrepreneur Learner's Permit pilot program that shall be
12 administered by the Department beginning on July 1 of the first
13 fiscal year for which an appropriation of State moneys is made
14 for that purpose and continuing for the next 2 immediately
15 succeeding fiscal years; however, the Department is not
16 required to administer the program in any fiscal year for which
17 such an appropriation has not been made. The purpose of the
18 program shall be to encourage and assist beginning
19 entrepreneurs in starting new information services,
20 biotechnology, and green technology businesses by providing
21 reimbursements to those entrepreneurs for any State filing,
22 permitting, or licensing fees associated with the formation of
23 such a business in the State.

1 (b) Applicants for participation in the Entrepreneur
2 Learner's Permit pilot program shall apply to the Department,
3 in a form and manner prescribed by the Department, prior to the
4 formation of the business for which the entrepreneur seeks
5 reimbursement of those fees. The Department shall adopt rules
6 for the review and approval of applications, provided that it
7 (1) shall give priority to applicants who are female or
8 minority persons, or both, and (2) shall not approve any
9 application by a person who will not be a beginning
10 entrepreneur. Reimbursements under this Section shall be
11 provided in the manner determined by the Department. In no
12 event shall an applicant apply for participation in the program
13 more than 3 times.

14 (c) The aggregate amount of all reimbursements provided by
15 the Department pursuant to this Section shall not exceed
16 \$500,000 in any State fiscal year.

17 (d) On or before February 1 of the last calendar year
18 during which the pilot program is in effect, the Department
19 shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly
20 on the cumulative effectiveness of the Entrepreneur Learner's
21 Permit pilot program. The review shall include, but not be
22 limited to, the number and type of businesses that were formed
23 in connection with the pilot program, the current status of
24 each business formed in connection with the pilot program, the
25 number of employees employed by each such business, the
26 economic impact to the State from the pilot program, the

1 satisfaction of participants in the pilot program, and a
2 recommendation as to whether the program should be continued.

3 (e) As used in this Section:

4 "Beginning entrepreneur" means an individual who, at
5 the time he or she applies for participation in the
6 program, has less than 5 years of experience as a business
7 owner and is not a current business owner.

8 "Female" and "minority person" have the meanings given
9 to those terms in the Business Enterprise for Minorities,
10 Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act.

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
12 2017.