



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB5232

by Rep. Michael D. Unes

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2421/25

Amends the Blind Vendors Act. In provisions permitting the Department of Human Services to provide, by rule, for set-asides similar to those provided under the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act, provides that the funds may be used only for: (1) the maintenance and replacement of equipment that is for use on State property; (2) the purchase of new equipment that is for use on State property; (3) the construction of new vending facilities that are for use on State property; and (4) the funding of functions of the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors, including legal and other professional services, that are performed on State property.

LRB101 18124 KTG 67564 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 Blind Vendors Act is amended by changing
5 Section 25 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2421/25)

7 Sec. 25. Set-aside funds; Blind Vendors Trust Fund.

8 (a) The Department may provide, by rule, for set-asides
9 similar to those provided in Section 107d-3 of the
10 Randolph-Sheppard Act. If any funds are set aside, or caused to
11 be set aside, from the net proceeds of the operation of vending
12 facilities by blind vendors, the funds shall be set aside only
13 to the extent necessary in a percentage amount not to exceed
14 that determined jointly by the Director and the Committee and
15 published in State rule, and that these funds may be used only
16 for the following purposes: (1) maintenance and replacement of
17 equipment that is for use on State property; (2) purchase of
18 new equipment that is for use on State property; (3)
19 construction of new vending facilities that are for use on
20 State property; (4) funding the functions of the Committee,
21 including legal and other professional services, that are
22 performed on State property; and (5) retirement or pension
23 funds, health insurance, paid sick leave, and vacation time for

1 blind licensees, so long as these benefits are approved by a
2 majority vote of all Illinois licensed blind vendors that
3 occurs after the Department provides these vendors with
4 information on all matters relevant to these purposes.

5 (b) No set-aside funds shall be collected from a blind
6 vendor when the monthly net proceeds of that vendor are less
7 than \$1,000. This amount may be adjusted annually by the
8 Director and the Committee to reflect changes in the cost of
9 living.

10 (c) The Department shall establish, with full
11 participation by the Committee, the Blind Vendors Trust Fund as
12 a separate account managed by the Department for the State's
13 blind vendors.

14 (d) Set-aside funds collected from the operation of all
15 vending facilities administered by the Business Enterprise
16 Program for the Blind shall be placed in the Blind Vendors
17 Trust Fund, which shall include set-aside funds from facilities
18 on federal property. The Fund must provide separately
19 identified sub-accounts for moneys from (i) federal and (ii)
20 State and other facilities, as well as vending machine income
21 generated pursuant to Section 30 of this Act. These funds shall
22 be available until expended and shall not revert to the General
23 Revenue Fund or to any other State account.

24 (e) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the
25 expenditure of set-aside funds authorized by this Section shall
26 be supplemental to any current appropriation or other moneys

1 made available for these purposes and shall not constitute an
2 offset of any previously existing appropriation or other
3 funding source. In no way shall this imply that the
4 appropriation for the Blind Vendors Program may never be
5 decreased, rather that the new funds shall not be used as an
6 offset.

7 (f) An amount equal to 10% of the wages paid by a blind
8 vendor to any employee who is blind or has another disability
9 shall be deducted from any set-aside charge paid by the vendor
10 each month, in order to encourage vendors to employ blind
11 workers and workers with disabilities and to set an example for
12 industry and government. No deduction shall be made for any
13 employee paid less than the State or federal minimum wage.

14 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)