

1 AN ACT concerning government.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Apprenticeship Study Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and purpose. The General Assembly finds
7 the following:

8 (1) our State has the unfortunate distinction of
9 ranking second in youth unemployment and also has one of
10 the highest unemployment rates in the country for people of
11 color of all ages;

12 (2) employers from a range of sectors struggle to fill
13 positions that require more training than a high school
14 diploma, but less than a college degree;

15 (3) apprenticeship programs help address these needs
16 by allowing employers to secure the talent they need while
17 providing apprentices a debt-free pathway to a career and
18 credentials, with 91% of apprentices remaining employed at
19 a median salary of \$50,000;

20 (4) our State has over 15,000 Registered Apprentices,
21 but the demographics of these apprentices do not mirror the
22 diversity of Illinoisans in that only 28% of Registered
23 Apprentices are people of color, only 4% of Registered

1 Apprentices are women; and the vast majority (82%) of
2 apprenticeship programs are concentrated in the
3 construction and trade industries;

4 (5) intentionally targeting industries that appeal to
5 diverse populations could increase not only the number of
6 apprentices in this State, but increase the diversity of
7 those who identify as apprentices;

8 (6) there are significant possibilities for growing
9 apprenticeship into an inclusive workforce strategy for
10 Illinois, but to build a foundation for success, we need to
11 understand what apprenticeship programs exist, how they
12 are funded, and the barriers employers face to launching
13 quality apprenticeship programs; and

14 (7) the purpose of this study is to build such a
15 foundation for successful apprenticeship growth, and this
16 study is needed to assess what the future may hold for
17 expansion of apprenticeship in Illinois.

18 Section 10. Apprenticeship Study.

19 (a) There is hereby created the Apprenticeship Study.

20 (b) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
21 shall conduct a study on the potential expansion of
22 apprenticeship programs in this State and produce a report on
23 its findings. The report shall include, but not be limited to,
24 the following:

25 (1) research on existing apprenticeship programs,

1 using the Illinois Apprenticeship Plus Framework as a
2 guide. This research shall seek to identify programs that
3 fit the 4 models of apprenticeship (registered,
4 non-registered, youth, and pre-apprenticeship);

5 (2) identification of work-based learning programs
6 that may have the potential to align with the
7 Apprenticeship Plus Framework;

8 (3) identification of how apprenticeship programs in
9 this State are currently funded and what funding streams
10 exist with potential for expanded sustainable funding of
11 apprenticeship programs;

12 (4) data on the distinct demographic trends and
13 industry composition of various regions of this State, with
14 an assessment of the industrial needs of each region and
15 how apprenticeship programs may be tailored to fit those
16 needs;

17 (5) identification of job fields having high
18 participation rates among diverse communities so as to
19 support diverse and equitable apprenticeship growth in
20 this State; and

21 (6) any other relevant information or recommendations
22 concerning apprenticeship programs and how such programs
23 may be utilized in this State to increase economic
24 development and opportunity.

25 For the purposes of this subsection (b), "Illinois
26 Apprenticeship Plus Framework" means the Apprenticeship Plus

1 Framework established by the Illinois Workforce Innovation
2 Board's Apprenticeship Committee in defining high-quality
3 apprenticeships for the State.

4 (c) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
5 shall submit its report with findings and recommendations to
6 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before June 1,
7 2020.

8 Section 15. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,
9 2022.