

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The Public Community College Act is amended by
5 adding Section 2-26 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 805/2-26 new)

7 Sec. 2-26. Community college apprenticeship grant program.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds all of the following:

9 (1) It is vital that our State take steps to enhance
10 education and workforce training to build capacity and
11 develop talent and skills that meet current and future
12 workforce needs.

13 (2) Apprenticeship is a proven model of job preparation
14 that combines paid on-the-job training with related
15 instruction to progressively increase workers' skill
16 levels and wages.

17 (3) As an earn-and-learn strategy, apprenticeships
18 offer job seekers immediate employment opportunities that
19 pay sustainable wages and offer advancement along a career
20 pathway.

21 (4) As using apprenticeships as a workforce
22 development tool continues to flourish across the country,
23 the role for community colleges is also growing.

1 (5) Community college apprenticeship programs in this
2 State bring the classroom and careers together, as they
3 develop curriculum and provide the classroom instruction
4 portion of an apprenticeship.

5 (6) Community college apprenticeship programs may
6 provide college credits leading toward, or even completion
7 of, an associate degree.

8 (7) Community colleges often screen apprenticeship
9 applicants, work with economic and workforce development
10 groups, or even act as the apprenticeship program sponsor,
11 handling the administration of the apprenticeship program.

12 (8) Lack of funding and resources is the most widely
13 mentioned challenge to increasing apprenticeship programs
14 at community colleges in this State.

15 (b) Subject to appropriation, the State Board shall
16 establish a community college apprenticeship grant program to
17 expand opportunities for credit and non-credit education and
18 training leading to high-demand jobs through apprenticeship
19 programs offered in partnership with a community college and a
20 local business or industry. Grants provided under this Section
21 must be prioritized to expand apprenticeship programs to new
22 populations, develop apprenticeships in new, non-traditional
23 sectors, and identify ways to promote greater inclusion and
24 diversity in apprenticeships.

25 (c) The State Board must adopt rules necessary to implement
26 this Section.

1 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
2 becoming law.