



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB2146

Introduced 2/15/2019, by Sen. Ram Villivalam

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 605/913 new
30 ILCS 105/5.891 new

Amends the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall create a Clean Water Workforce Pipeline Program to provide grants and other financial assistance to prepare and support individuals for careers in water infrastructure. Provides specified groups that may be provided with grants and other financial assistance on a competitive annual basis. Directs the Department to coordinate with the Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Finance Authority, and other State agencies that provide financial support for water infrastructure projects. Provides that the Department may select a Program Administrator. Provides that recipients of grants or other financial assistance under the Program shall report annually to the Department. Amends the State Finance Act. Creates the Clean Water Workforce Development Fund.

LRB101 10041 CPF 55143 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 Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by adding Section 913 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/913 new)

8 Sec. 913. Clean Water Workforce Pipeline Program.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds the following:

10 (1) The fresh surface water and groundwater supply in
11 Illinois and Lake Michigan constitute vital natural
12 resources that require careful stewardship and protection
13 for future generations. Access to safe and clean drinking
14 water is the right of all Illinois residents.

15 (2) To adequately protect these resources and provide
16 safe and clean drinking water, substantial investment is
17 needed to replace lead components in drinking water
18 infrastructure, improve wastewater treatment, flood
19 control, and stormwater management, control aquatic
20 invasive species, implement green infrastructure
21 solutions, and implement other infrastructure solutions to
22 protect water quality.

23 (3) Implementing these clean water solutions will

1 require a skilled and trained workforce, and new
2 investments will demand additional workers with
3 specialized skills.

4 (4) Water infrastructure jobs have been shown to
5 provide living wages and contribute to Illinois' economy.

6 (5) Significant populations of Illinois residents,
7 including, but not limited to, residents of environmental
8 justice communities, economically and socially
9 disadvantaged communities, those returning from the
10 criminal justice system, foster care alumni, and in
11 particular women and transgender persons, are in need of
12 access to skilled living wage jobs like those in the water
13 infrastructure sector.

14 (6) These residents are more likely to live in
15 communities with aging and inadequate clean water
16 infrastructure and suffer from threats to surface and
17 drinking water quality.

18 (7) The State can provide significant economic
19 opportunities to these residents and achieve greater
20 environmental and public health by investing in clean water
21 infrastructure.

22 (8) New training, recruitment, support, and placement
23 efforts are needed to connect these residents with career
24 opportunities in water infrastructure.

25 (9) The State must invest in both clean water
26 infrastructure and workforce development efforts in order

1 to achieve these goals.

2 (b) The Department shall create a Clean Water Workforce
3 Pipeline Program to provide grants and other financial
4 assistance to prepare and support individuals for careers in
5 water infrastructure. All funding provided by the Program under
6 this Section shall be designed to encourage and facilitate
7 employment in projects funded through State capital investment
8 and provide participants a skill set which is sufficiently
9 broad enough to allow them to work professionally in fields
10 related to water infrastructure. Such projects may include
11 training in construction, plumbing, or other relevant fields.

12 Grants and other financial assistance may be made available
13 on a competitive annual basis to organizations that demonstrate
14 a capacity to recruit, support, train, and place individuals in
15 water infrastructure careers, including, but not limited to,
16 community organizations, educational institutions, workforce
17 investment boards, community action agencies, and labor unions
18 for new efforts specifically focused on engaging residents of
19 environmental justice communities, economically and socially
20 disadvantaged communities, those returning from the criminal
21 justice system, foster care alumni, and in particular women and
22 transgender persons in these populations.

23 Grants and other financial assistance shall be awarded on a
24 competitive and annual basis for the following activities:

25 (1) identification of individuals for job training in
26 the water sector;

1 (2) counseling, preparation, skills training, and
2 other support to increase a candidate's likelihood of
3 success in a job training program and career;

4 (3) continuing education for individuals to prepare
5 for and build on workforce training;

6 (4) financial support for individuals in a water sector
7 job skills training program, including stipends and
8 assistance with transportation, child care, uniforms,
9 tools, and other costs;

10 (5) training of individuals in various skills and
11 trades necessary to build and maintain clean water
12 infrastructure;

13 (6) job placement services for individuals during and
14 after completion of water sector job skills training
15 programs; and

16 (7) financial, administrative, and management
17 assistance for organizations engaged in these activities.

18 It shall be an annual goal of the Program to train and
19 place 2,500 residents of environmental justice communities,
20 economically and socially disadvantaged communities, those
21 returning from the criminal justice system, foster care alumni,
22 and in particular women and transgender persons, in water
23 sector jobs annually.

24 In order to encourage the employment of individuals trained
25 through the Program onto projects receiving State financial
26 assistance, the Department shall coordinate with the Illinois

1 Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Finance
2 Authority, and other State agencies that provide financial
3 support for water infrastructure projects.

4 The Department may select through a competitive bidding
5 process a Program Administrator to oversee the allocation of
6 funds and select organizations that receive funding.

7 Recipients of grants or other financial assistance under
8 the Program shall report annually to the Department on the
9 success of their efforts and their contribution to reaching the
10 goals of the Program provided in this subsection. The
11 Department shall compile this information and annually report
12 to the General Assembly on the Program, including, but not
13 limited to, the following information:

14 (1) progress toward the goals stated in this
15 subsection;

16 (2) any increase in the percentage of water industry
17 jobs in targeted populations;

18 (3) any increase in the rate of acceptance, completion,
19 or retention of water training programs among targeted
20 populations;

21 (4) any increase in the rate of employment, including
22 hours and annual income, measured against pre-Program
23 participant income; and

24 (5) any recommendations for future changes to optimize
25 the success of the Program.

26 (c) Within 90 days after the effective date of this

1 amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly, the Department
2 shall propose a draft plan to implement this Section for public
3 comment. The Department shall allow a minimum of 60 days for
4 public comment on the plan, including one or more public
5 hearings, if requested. The Department shall finalize the plan
6 within 180 days of the effective date of this amendatory Act of
7 the 101st General Assembly.

8 The Department may propose and adopt any rules necessary
9 for the implementation of the Program and to ensure compliance
10 with this Section.

11 (d) The Water Workforce Development Fund is created as a
12 special fund in the State treasury. Moneys in the Fund shall
13 only be used to fund the Program and to assist and enable
14 implementation of clean water infrastructure capital
15 investments. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the
16 Water Workforce Development Fund is not subject to sweeps,
17 administrative charge-backs, or any other fiscal or budgetary
18 maneuver that would in any way transfer any amounts from the
19 Water Workforce Development Fund into any other fund of the
20 State.

21 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
22 Section 5.891 as follows:

23 (30 ILCS 105/5.891 new)

24 Sec. 5.891. The Water Workforce Development Fund.