



Sen. Ram Villivalam

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2146

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 2146 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

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

1 needed to replace lead components in drinking water  
2 infrastructure, improve wastewater treatment, flood  
3 control, and stormwater management, control aquatic  
4 invasive species, implement green infrastructure  
5 solutions, and implement other infrastructure solutions to  
6 protect water quality.

7 (3) Implementing these clean water solutions will  
8 require a skilled and trained workforce, and new  
9 investments will demand additional workers with  
10 specialized skills.

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

13 (5) Significant populations of Illinois residents,  
14 including, but not limited to, residents of environmental  
15 justice communities, economically and socially  
16 disadvantaged communities, those returning from the  
17 criminal justice system, foster care alumni, and in  
18 particular women and transgender persons, are in need of  
19 access to skilled living wage jobs like those in the water  
20 infrastructure sector.

21 (6) Many of these residents are more likely to live in  
22 communities with aging and inadequate clean water  
23 infrastructure and suffer from threats to surface and  
24 drinking water quality.

25 (7) The State can provide significant economic  
26 opportunities to these residents and achieve greater

1 environmental and public health by investing in clean water  
2 infrastructure.

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

6 (9) The State must invest in both clean water  
7 infrastructure and workforce development efforts in order  
8 to achieve these goals.

9 (b) From appropriations made from the Build Illinois Bond  
10 Fund, Capital Development Fund, or General Revenue Fund or  
11 other funds as identified by the Department, the Department  
12 shall create a Clean Water Workforce Pipeline Program to  
13 provide grants and other financial assistance to prepare and  
14 support individuals for careers in water infrastructure. All  
15 funding provided by the Program under this Section shall be  
16 designed to encourage and facilitate employment in projects  
17 funded through State capital investment and provide  
18 participants a skill set to allow them to work professionally  
19 in fields related to water infrastructure.

20 Grants and other financial assistance may be made available  
21 on a competitive annual basis to organizations that demonstrate  
22 a capacity to recruit, support, train, and place individuals in  
23 water infrastructure careers, including, but not limited to,  
24 community organizations, educational institutions, workforce  
25 investment boards, community action agencies, and multi-craft  
26 labor organizations for new efforts specifically focused on

1 engaging residents of environmental justice communities,  
2 economically and socially disadvantaged communities, those  
3 returning from the criminal justice system, foster care alumni,  
4 and in particular women and transgender persons in these  
5 populations.

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

8 (1) identification of individuals for job training in  
9 the water sector;

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

13 (3) financial support for individuals in a water sector  
14 job skills training program, support services, and  
15 transportation assistance tied to training under this  
16 Section;

17 (4) job placement services for individuals during and  
18 after completion of water sector job skills training  
19 programs; and

20 (5) financial, administrative, and management  
21 assistance for organizations engaged in these activities.

22 (c) It shall be an annual goal of the Program to train and  
23 place at least 300, or 25% of the number of annual jobs created  
24 by State financed water infrastructure projects, whichever is  
25 greater, of the following persons in water sector-related  
26 apprenticeships annually: residents of environmental justice

1 communities; residents of economically and socially  
2 disadvantaged communities; those returning from the criminal  
3 justice system; foster care alumni; and, in particular, women  
4 and transgender persons. In awarding and administering grants  
5 under this Program, the Department shall strive to provide  
6 assistance equitably throughout the State.

7 In order to encourage the employment of individuals trained  
8 through the Program onto projects receiving State financial  
9 assistance, the Department shall coordinate with the Illinois  
10 Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Finance  
11 Authority, and other State agencies that provide financial  
12 support for water infrastructure projects. These agencies  
13 shall take steps to support attaining the training and  
14 placement goals set forth in this subsection, using a list of  
15 projects that receive State financial support. These agencies  
16 may propose and adopt rules to facilitate the attainment of  
17 this goal.

18 Using funds appropriated for the purposes of this Section,  
19 the Department may select through a competitive bidding process  
20 a Program Administrator to oversee the allocation of funds and  
21 select organizations that receive funding.

22 Recipients of grants under the Program shall report  
23 annually to the Department on the success of their efforts and  
24 their contribution to reaching the goals of the Program  
25 provided in this subsection. The Department shall compile this  
26 information and annually report to the General Assembly on the

1 Program, including, but not limited to, the following  
2 information:

3 (1) progress toward the goals stated in this  
4 subsection;

5 (2) any increase in the percentage of water industry  
6 jobs in targeted populations;

7 (3) any increase in the rate of acceptance, completion,  
8 or retention of water training programs among targeted  
9 populations;

10 (4) any increase in the rate of employment, including  
11 hours and annual income, measured against pre-Program  
12 participant income; and

13 (5) any recommendations for future changes to optimize  
14 the success of the Program.

15 (d) Within 90 days after the effective date of this  
16 amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly, the Department  
17 shall propose a draft plan to implement this Section for public  
18 comment. The Department shall allow a minimum of 60 days for  
19 public comment on the plan, including one or more public  
20 hearings, if requested. The Department shall finalize the plan  
21 within 180 days of the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
22 the 101st General Assembly.

23 The Department may propose and adopt any rules necessary  
24 for the implementation of the Program and to ensure compliance  
25 with this Section.

26 (e) The Water Workforce Development Fund is created as a

1 special fund in the State treasury. The Fund shall receive  
2 moneys appropriated for the purpose of this Section from the  
3 Build Illinois Bond, the Capital Development Fund, the General  
4 Revenue Fund and any other funds. Moneys in the Fund shall only  
5 be used to fund the Program and to assist and enable  
6 implementation of clean water infrastructure capital  
7 investments. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the  
8 Water Workforce Development Fund is not subject to sweeps,  
9 administrative charge-backs, or any other fiscal or budgetary  
10 maneuver that would in any way transfer any amounts from the  
11 Water Workforce Development Fund into any other fund of the  
12 State.

13 (f) For purpose of this Section:

14 "Environmental justice community" has the meaning provided  
15 in subsection (b) of Section 1-50 of the Illinois Power Agency  
16 Act.

17 "Multi-craft labor organization" means a joint  
18 labor-management apprenticeship program registered with and  
19 approved by the United States Department of Labor's Office of  
20 Apprenticeship.

21 "Organization" means a corporation, company, partnership,  
22 association, society, order, labor organization, or individual  
23 or aggregation of individuals.

24 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
25 Section 5.891 as follows:

1 (30 ILCS 105/5.891 new)

2 Sec. 5.891. The Water Workforce Development Fund."