

1 AN ACT concerning employment.

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

4 Section 5. The Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act is  
5 amended by changing Sections 12 and 15 and adding Section 13 as  
6 follows:

7 (820 ILCS 55/12)

8 Sec. 12. Use of Employment Eligibility Verification  
9 Systems.

10 (a) Prior to enrolling ~~choosing to voluntarily enroll~~ in  
11 any Electronic Employment Verification System, including the  
12 E-Verify program and the Basic Pilot program, as authorized by  
13 8 U.S.C. 1324a, Notes, Pilot Programs for Employment  
14 Eligibility Confirmation (enacted by P.L. 104-208, div. C,  
15 title IV, subtitle A), employers are urged to consult the  
16 Illinois Department of Labor's website for current information  
17 on the accuracy of E-Verify and to review and understand an  
18 employer's legal responsibilities relating to the use of the  
19 ~~voluntary~~ E-Verify program. Nothing in this Act shall be  
20 construed to require an employer to enroll in any Electronic  
21 Employment Verification System, including the E-Verify program  
22 and the Basic Pilot program, as authorized by 8 U.S.C. 1324a,  
23 Notes, Pilot Programs for Employment Eligibility Confirmation

1 (enacted by P.L. 104-208, div. C, title IV, subtitle A) beyond  
2 those obligations that have been imposed upon them by federal  
3 law.

4 (a-1) The Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) shall post  
5 on its website information or links to information from the  
6 United States Government Accountability Office, Westat, or a  
7 similar reliable source independent of the Department of  
8 Homeland Security regarding: (1) the accuracy of the E-Verify  
9 databases; (2) the approximate financial burden and  
10 expenditure of time that use of E-Verify requires from  
11 employers; and (3) an overview of an employer's  
12 responsibilities under federal and state law relating to the  
13 use of E-Verify.

14 (b) Upon initial enrollment in an Employment Eligibility  
15 Verification System or within 30 days after the effective date  
16 of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly, an  
17 employer enrolled in E-Verify or any other Employment  
18 Eligibility Verification System must attest, under penalty of  
19 perjury, on a form prescribed by the IDOL available on the IDOL  
20 website:

21 (1) that the employer has received the Basic Pilot or  
22 E-Verify training materials from the Department of  
23 Homeland Security (DHS), and that all employees who will  
24 administer the program have completed the Basic Pilot or  
25 E-Verify Computer Based Tutorial (CBT); and

26 (2) that the employer has posted the notice from DHS

1           indicating that the employer is enrolled in the Basic  
2           Pilot or E-Verify program and the anti-discrimination  
3           notice issued by the Office of Special Counsel for  
4           Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices (OSC),  
5           Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice in a  
6           prominent place that is clearly visible to both  
7           prospective and current employees. The employer must  
8           maintain the signed original of the attestation form  
9           prescribed by the IDOL, as well as all CBT certificates of  
10          completion and make them available for inspection or  
11          copying by the IDOL at any reasonable time.

12          (c) It is a violation of this Act for an employer enrolled  
13          in an Employment Eligibility Verification System, including  
14          the E-Verify program and the Basic Pilot program:

15               (1) to fail to display the notices supplied by DHS and  
16               OSC in a prominent place that is clearly visible to both  
17               prospective and current employees;

18               (2) to allow any employee to use an Employment  
19               Eligibility Verification System prior to having completed  
20               CBT;

21               (3) to fail to take reasonable steps to prevent an  
22               employee from circumventing the requirement to complete  
23               the CBT by assuming another employee's E-Verify or Basic  
24               Pilot user identification or password;

25               (4) to use the Employment Eligibility Verification  
26               System to verify the employment eligibility of job

1 applicants prior to hiring or to otherwise use the  
2 Employment Eligibility Verification System to screen  
3 individuals prior to hiring and prior to the completion of  
4 a Form I-9;

5 (5) to terminate an employee or take any other adverse  
6 employment action against an individual prior to receiving  
7 a final nonconfirmation notice from the Social Security  
8 Administration or the Department of Homeland Security;

9 (6) to fail to notify an individual, in writing, of  
10 the employer's receipt of a tentative nonconfirmation  
11 notice, of the individual's right to contest the tentative  
12 nonconfirmation notice, and of the contact information for  
13 the relevant government agency or agencies that the  
14 individual must contact to resolve the tentative  
15 nonconfirmation notice;

16 (7) to fail to safeguard the information contained in  
17 the Employment Eligibility Verification System, and the  
18 means of access to the system (such as passwords and other  
19 privacy protections). An employer shall ensure that the  
20 System is not used for any purpose other than employment  
21 verification of newly hired employees and shall ensure  
22 that the information contained in the System and the means  
23 of access to the System are not disseminated to any person  
24 other than employees who need such information and access  
25 to perform the employer's employment verification  
26 responsibilities.

1 (c-1) Any claim that an employer refused to hire,  
2 segregated, or acted with respect to recruitment, hiring,  
3 promotion, renewal or employment, selection for training or  
4 apprenticeship, discharge, discipline, tenure or terms,  
5 privileges, or conditions of employment without following the  
6 procedures of the Employment Eligibility Verification System,  
7 including the Basic Pilot and E-Verify programs, may be  
8 brought under paragraph (G)(2) of Section 2-102 of the  
9 Illinois Human Rights Act.

10 (c-2) It is a violation of this Section for an individual  
11 to falsely pose as an employer in order to enroll in an  
12 Employment Eligibility Verification System or for an employer  
13 to use an Employment Eligibility Verification System to access  
14 information regarding an individual who is not an employee of  
15 the employer.

16 (d) Preemption. Neither the State nor any of its political  
17 subdivisions, nor any unit of local government, including a  
18 home rule unit, may require any employer to use an Employment  
19 Eligibility Verification System, including under the following  
20 circumstances:

- 21 (1) as a condition of receiving a government contract;
- 22 (2) as a condition of receiving a business license; or
- 23 (3) as penalty for violating licensing or other  
24 similar laws.

25 This subsection (d) is a denial and limitation of home  
26 rule powers and functions under subsection (h) of Section 6 of

1 Article VII of the Illinois Constitution.

2 (Source: P.A. 95-138, eff. 1-1-08; 96-623, eff. 1-1-10;  
3 96-1000, eff. 7-2-10.)

4 (820 ILCS 55/13 new)

5 Sec. 13. Restrictions on the use of Employment Eligibility  
6 Verification Systems.

7 (a) As used in this Section:

8 "Employee's authorized representative" means an exclusive  
9 collective bargaining representative.

10 "Inspecting entity" means the U.S. Immigration and Customs  
11 Enforcement, United States Customs and Border Protection, or  
12 any other federal entity enforcing civil immigration  
13 violations of an employer's I-9 Employment Eligibility  
14 Verification forms.

15 (b) An employer shall not impose work authorization  
16 verification or re-verification requirements greater than  
17 those required by federal law.

18 (c) If an employer contends that there is a discrepancy in  
19 an employee's employment verification information, the  
20 employer must provide the employee with:

21 (1) The specific document or documents, if made  
22 available to the employer, that the employer deems to be  
23 deficient and the reason why the document or documents are  
24 deficient. Upon request by the employee or the employee's  
25 authorized representative, the employer shall give to the

1 employee the original document forming the basis for the  
2 employer's contention of deficiency within 7 business  
3 days.

4 (2) Instructions on how the employee can correct the  
5 alleged deficient documents if required to do so by law.

6 (3) An explanation of the employee's right to have  
7 representation present during related meetings,  
8 discussions, or proceedings with the employer, if allowed  
9 by a memorandum of understanding concerning the federal  
10 E-Verify system.

11 (4) An explanation of any other rights that the  
12 employee may have in connection with the employer's  
13 contention.

14 (d) When an employer receives notification from any  
15 federal or State agency, including, but not limited to, the  
16 Social Security Administration or the Internal Revenue  
17 Service, of a discrepancy as it relates to work authorization,  
18 the following rights and protections are granted to the  
19 employee:

20 (1) The employer must not take any adverse action  
21 against the employee, including re-verification, based on  
22 the receipt of the notification.

23 (2) The employer must provide a notice to the employee  
24 and, if allowed by a memorandum of understanding  
25 concerning the federal E-Verify system, to the employee's  
26 authorized representative, if any, as soon as practicable,

1 but not more than 5 business days after the date of receipt  
2 of the notification, unless a shorter timeline is provided  
3 for under federal law or a collective bargaining  
4 agreement. The notice to the employee shall include, but  
5 not be limited to: (i) an explanation that the federal or  
6 State agency has notified the employer that the employee's  
7 work authorization documents presented by the employee do  
8 not appear to be valid or reasonably relate to the  
9 employee; and (ii) the time period the employee has to  
10 contest the federal or State agency's determination. The  
11 employer shall notify the employee in person and deliver  
12 the notification by hand, if possible. If hand delivery is  
13 not possible, then the employer shall notify the employee  
14 by mail and email, if the email address of the employee is  
15 known, and shall notify the employee's authorized  
16 representative. Upon request by the employee or the  
17 employee's authorized representative, the employer shall  
18 give to the employee the original notice from the federal  
19 or State agency, including, but not limited to, the Social  
20 Security Administration or the Internal Revenue Service,  
21 within 7 business days. This original notice shall be  
22 redacted in compliance with State and federal privacy laws  
23 and shall relate only to the employee receiving the  
24 notification.

25 (3) The employee may have a representative of the  
26 employee's choosing in any meetings, discussions, or



1 proceedings with the employer.

2 The procedures described in this subsection do not apply  
3 to inspections of an employer's I-9 Employment Verification  
4 Forms by an inspecting entity or any relevant procedure  
5 otherwise described in subsection (g).

6 (e) Except as otherwise required by federal law, an  
7 employer shall provide a notice to each current employee, by  
8 posting in English and in any language commonly used in the  
9 workplace, of any inspections of I-9 Employment Eligibility  
10 Verification forms or other employment records conducted by  
11 the inspecting entity within 72 hours after receiving notice  
12 of the inspection. Written notice shall also be given within  
13 72 hours to the employee's authorized representative, if any.  
14 The posted notice shall contain the following information:

15 (1) the name of the entity conducting the inspections  
16 of I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification forms or other  
17 employment records;

18 (2) the date that the employer received notice of the  
19 inspection;

20 (3) the nature of the inspection to the extent known  
21 by the employer; and

22 (4) a copy of the notice received by the employer.

23 An employer, upon reasonable request, shall provide an  
24 employee a copy of the Notice of Inspection of I-9 Employment  
25 Eligibility Verification forms.

26 (f) On or before 6 months after the effective date of this

1 amendatory Act of the 103rd General Assembly, the Department  
2 shall develop a template posting that employers may use to  
3 comply with the requirements of subsection (e) to inform  
4 employees of a notice of inspection to be conducted of I-9  
5 Employment Eligibility Verification forms or other employment  
6 records conducted by the inspecting entity. The Department  
7 shall make the template available on its website so that it is  
8 accessible to any employer.

9 (g) Except as otherwise required by federal law, if during  
10 an inspection of the employer's I-9 Employment Eligibility  
11 Verification forms by an inspecting entity, the inspecting  
12 entity makes a determination that the employee's work  
13 authorization documents do not establish that the employee is  
14 authorized to work in the United States and provide the  
15 employer with notice of that determination, the employer shall  
16 provide a written notice as set forth in this subsection to the  
17 employee within 5 business days, unless a shorter timeline is  
18 provided for under federal law or a collective bargaining  
19 agreement. The employer's notice to the employee shall relate  
20 to the employee only. The employer shall notify the employee  
21 in person and deliver the notification by hand, if possible.  
22 If hand delivery is not possible, then the employer shall  
23 notify the employee by mail and email, if the email address of  
24 the employee is known, and shall notify the employee's  
25 authorized representative. The employer's notice to the  
26 employee shall contain the following information:

1           (1) an explanation that the inspecting entity has  
2           determined that the employee's work authorization  
3           documents presented by the employee do not appear to be  
4           valid or reasonably relate to the employee;

5           (2) the time period for the employee to notify the  
6           employer whether the employee is contesting or not  
7           contesting the determination by the inspecting entity;

8           (3) if known by the employer, the time and date of any  
9           meeting with the employer and employee or with the  
10           inspecting entity and employee related to the correction  
11           of the inspecting entity's determination that the  
12           employee's work authorization documents presented by the  
13           employee do not appear to be valid or reasonably relate to  
14           the employee; and

15           (4) notice that the employee has the right to  
16           representation during any meeting scheduled with the  
17           employer and the inspecting entity.

18           If the employee contests the inspecting entity's  
19           determination, the employer will notify the employee within 72  
20           hours after receipt of any final determination by the  
21           inspecting entity related to the employee's work authorization  
22           status. Upon request by the employee or the employee's  
23           authorized representative, the employer shall give the  
24           employee the original notice from the inspecting entity within  
25           7 business days. This original notice shall be redacted in  
26           compliance with State and federal privacy laws and shall

1 relate only to the employee receiving the notification.

2 (h) This Section does not require a penalty to be imposed  
3 upon an employer or person who fails to provide notice to an  
4 employee at the express and specific direction or request of  
5 the federal government. In determining the amount of the  
6 penalty, the appropriateness of the penalty to the size of the  
7 business of the employer charged and the gravity of the  
8 violation shall be considered. The penalty may be recovered in  
9 a civil action brought by the Director in any circuit court.  
10 Upon request by the employee or the employee's authorized  
11 representative, the employer shall give the employee the  
12 original notice from the inspecting entity within 7 business  
13 days.

14 (i) This Section applies to public and private employers.

15 (j) Nothing in this Section shall be interpreted,  
16 construed, or applied to restrict or limit an employer's  
17 compliance with a memorandum of understanding concerning the  
18 use of the federal E-Verify system.

19 (820 ILCS 55/15) (from Ch. 48, par. 2865)

20 Sec. 15. Administration and enforcement.

21 (a) The Director of Labor or his authorized representative  
22 shall administer and enforce the provisions of this Act. The  
23 Director of Labor may issue rules and regulations necessary to  
24 administer and enforce the provisions of this Act.

25 (b) If an employee or applicant for employment alleges

1 that he or she has been denied his or her rights under this  
2 Act, he or she may file a complaint with the Department of  
3 Labor. The Department shall investigate the complaint and  
4 shall have authority to request the issuance of a search  
5 warrant or subpoena to inspect the files of the employer or  
6 prospective employer, if necessary. The Department shall  
7 attempt to resolve the complaint by conference, conciliation,  
8 or persuasion. If the complaint is not so resolved and the  
9 Department finds the employer or prospective employer has  
10 violated the Act, the Department may commence an action in the  
11 circuit court to enforce the provisions of this Act including  
12 an action to compel compliance. The circuit court for the  
13 county in which the complainant resides or in which the  
14 complainant is employed shall have jurisdiction in such  
15 actions.

16 (c) If an employer or prospective employer violates this  
17 Act, an employee or applicant for employment may commence an  
18 action in the circuit court to enforce the provisions of this  
19 Act, including actions to compel compliance, where efforts to  
20 resolve the employee's or applicant for employment's complaint  
21 concerning the violation by conference, conciliation or  
22 persuasion under subsection (b) have failed and the Department  
23 has not commenced an action in circuit court to redress the  
24 violation. The circuit court for the county in which the  
25 complainant resides or in which the complainant is employed  
26 shall have jurisdiction in such actions.

1 (d) Failure to comply with an order of the court may be  
2 punished as contempt. In addition, the court shall award an  
3 employee or applicant for employment prevailing in an action  
4 under this Act the following damages:

5 (1) Actual damages plus costs.

6 (2) For a willful and knowing violation of this Act,  
7 \$200 plus costs, reasonable attorney's fees, and actual  
8 damages.

9 (3) For a willful and knowing violation of Section  
10 12(c) or Section 12(c-2) of this Act, \$500 per affected  
11 employee plus costs, reasonable attorney's ~~attorneys'~~  
12 fees, and actual damages.

13 (4) For a willful and knowing violation of Section 13,  
14 a civil penalty of a minimum of \$2,000 up to a maximum of  
15 \$5,000 for a first violation and a civil penalty of a  
16 minimum of \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$10,000 for each  
17 subsequent violation per affected employee plus costs,  
18 reasonable attorney's fees, and actual damages.

19 (e) Any employer or prospective employer or his agent who  
20 violates the provisions of this Act is guilty of a petty  
21 offense.

22 (f) Any employer or prospective employer, or the officer  
23 or agent of any employer or prospective employer, who  
24 discharges or in any other manner discriminates against any  
25 employee or applicant for employment because that employee or  
26 applicant for employment has made a complaint to his employer,

1 or to the Director or his authorized representative, or  
2 because that employee or applicant for employment has caused  
3 to be instituted or is about to cause to be instituted any  
4 proceeding under or related to this Act, or because that  
5 employee or applicant for employment has testified or is about  
6 to testify in an investigation or proceeding under this Act,  
7 is guilty of a petty offense.

8 (Source: P.A. 96-623, eff. 1-1-10.)