

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Employment and Economic Opportunity for Persons with  
6 Disabilities Task Force Act.

7 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds as follows:

8 (1) That there are many qualified persons with  
9 disabilities in Illinois who are unable to obtain  
10 competitive employment.

11 (2) That the unemployment rate for persons with  
12 disabilities far exceeds the unemployment rate for persons  
13 without disabilities.

14 (3) That millions of federal and State dollars are  
15 invested each year in education, training, supported  
16 employment, vocational training and other services related  
17 to the employment and training of persons with disabilities  
18 in Illinois without any significant gains in the rate of  
19 competitive employment for persons with disabilities.

20 (4) That there has been a history of barriers to equal  
21 employment opportunity for persons with disabilities in  
22 Illinois, and those barriers continue to exist in the  
23 public and the private sectors.

1           (5) That it is in the best social and economic  
2 interests of the State of Illinois to expand competitive  
3 employment and economic opportunity for persons with  
4 disabilities in Illinois.

5           (6) That competitive employment and other economic  
6 opportunity for persons with disabilities will facilitate  
7 self-sufficiency and independent living for more persons  
8 with disabilities in Illinois.

9           Section 10. Employment and Economic Opportunity for  
10 Persons with Disabilities Task Force.

11           (a) The Employment and Economic Opportunity for Persons  
12 with Disabilities Task Force is created.

13           (b) The Employment and Economic Opportunity for Persons  
14 with Disabilities Task Force shall be appointed and hold its  
15 first meeting within 90 days after the effective date of this  
16 Act, be convened by the Governor, and operate under the  
17 auspices of the Governor's office.

18           (c) The Task Force shall be comprised of the following  
19 representatives of State Government: a high-ranking member of  
20 the Governor's management team, designated by the Governor;  
21 representatives of each division of the Department of Human  
22 Services, designated by the Secretary of Human Services; the  
23 Director of Healthcare and Family Services, or his or her  
24 designee; the Director of Veterans' Affairs or his or her  
25 designee; the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity or

1 his or her designee; the Director of Employment Security or his  
2 or her designee; the Executive Director of the Illinois Council  
3 on Developmental Disabilities or his or her designee; and the  
4 State Superintendent of Education or his or her designee.

5 (d) The Task Force shall also consist of no more than 15  
6 public members who shall be appointed by the Governor and who  
7 represent the following constituencies: statewide  
8 organizations that advocate for persons with physical,  
9 developmental and psychiatric disabilities, entities with  
10 expertise in assistive technology devices and services for  
11 persons with disabilities, advocates for veterans with  
12 disabilities, centers for independent living, disability  
13 services providers, organized labor, higher education, the  
14 private sector business community, entities that provide  
15 employment and training services to persons with disabilities,  
16 and at least 5 persons who have a disability.

17 (e) The Task Force shall be co-chaired by the  
18 representative of the Governor and a public member who shall be  
19 chosen by the other public members of the Task Force.

20 (f) The Task Force members shall serve voluntarily and  
21 without compensation. Persons with disabilities serving on the  
22 Task Force shall be accommodated to enable them to fully  
23 participate in Task Force activities.

24 (g) The co-chairs of the Task Force shall extend an  
25 invitation to chairs and minority spokespersons of appropriate  
26 legislative committees to attend all meetings of the Task

1 Force, and may invite other individuals who are not members of  
2 the Task Force to participate in subcommittees of the Task  
3 Force or to take part in discussions of topics for which those  
4 individuals have particular expertise.

5 (h) The Task Force shall coordinate its work with existing  
6 State advisory bodies whose work may include employment and  
7 economic opportunity for persons with disabilities.

8 Section 15. Task Force Responsibilities. The Task Force  
9 shall analyze programs and policies of the State to determine  
10 what changes, modifications, and innovations may be necessary  
11 to remove barriers to competitive employment and economic  
12 opportunity for persons with disabilities, including barriers  
13 such as transportation, housing, program accessibility, and  
14 benefit structure. The Task Force shall also analyze State  
15 disability systems, including the mental health, developmental  
16 disabilities, veterans' assistance, workforce investment, and  
17 rehabilitation services systems, and their effect on  
18 employment of persons with disabilities. The Task Force shall  
19 review and analyze applicable research and policy studies,  
20 innovations used in other states, and any federal policy  
21 initiatives such as customized employment, and federal funding  
22 opportunities that would increase competitive employment and  
23 economic opportunity for persons with disabilities in  
24 Illinois.

1           Section 20. Reporting. The Task Force shall make  
2 recommendations to the General Assembly and to the Governor,  
3 including legislative proposals, regulatory changes, systems  
4 changes, and budget initiatives, that would advance employment  
5 and economic opportunity for persons with disabilities in  
6 Illinois. The Task Force shall produce an annual report of its  
7 activities and recommendations that shall be issued no later  
8 than May 1st of each year, the first report being due no later  
9 than May 1, 2010.

10           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
11 becoming law.