



97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

SB3613

Introduced 2/10/2012, by Sen. Kyle McCarter

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/12-4.45 new

Amends the Administration Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Creates the Workforce Preparation Task Force to study and report on ways that promote the economic self-sufficiency of individuals who receive benefits under the State's General Assistance program, with the underlying intention to reduce the overall number of individuals receiving benefits under the program through increased levels of sustainable employment skills. Requires the Task Force to outline in its final report to the General Assembly and the Governor a 5-year plan that utilizes existing State resources and programs to reduce the overall number of general assistance recipients by one-third through enrollment in and successful completion of appropriate educational or job-training programs that can directly lead to sustainable employment opportunities in the job market. Provides that the Task Force shall meet on a periodic basis to examine and compile data regarding educational and job-training programs and resources as well as levels of benefits that recipients receive from the State's General Assistance program. Requires the Department of Human Services to maintain a database of information that tracks the overall trends of the 5-year plan and to provide quarterly updates to the public in both electronic and written formats. Contains provisions concerning Task Force membership and reporting requirements. Effective immediately.

LRB097 19775 KTG 65041 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
5 adding Section 12-4.45 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.45 new)

7 Sec. 12-4.45. Workforce Preparation Task Force.

8 (a) The Workforce Preparation Task Force is created.

9 Membership in the Task Force shall include, but shall not be
10 limited to, the following members:

11 (1) One member appointed by the President of the
12 Senate.

13 (2) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
14 Senate.

15 (3) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives.

17 (4) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
18 House of Representatives.

19 (5) One member appointed by the Governor.

20 (6) One member appointed by the Illinois Community
21 College Board.

22 (7) One member appointed by the Illinois State Board of
23 Education.

1 (8) The Director of the Department of Employment
2 Security or his or her designee.

3 (9) The Secretary of the Department of Human Services
4 or his or her designee.

5 Members shall serve without compensation.

6 (b) The Task Force shall study and report to the General
7 Assembly and the Governor on ways that promote the economic
8 self-sufficiency of individuals who receive benefits under the
9 State's General Assistance program, with the underlying
10 intention to reduce the overall number of individuals receiving
11 benefits under the program through increased levels of
12 sustainable employment skills.

13 In its final report, the Task Force shall outline a 5-year
14 plan that utilizes existing State resources and programs to
15 reduce the overall number of general assistance recipients by
16 one-third through enrollment in and successful completion of
17 appropriate educational or job-training programs that can
18 directly lead to sustainable employment opportunities in the
19 job market. Appropriate educational or job-training programs
20 include, but are not limited to, the following: GED
21 certificates, Associate's degrees from a community or business
22 college, and vocational or apprenticeship certificates from
23 accredited organizations.

24 The Task Force shall specifically address the needs of the
25 following groups of individuals in the development of its
26 5-year plan: at-risk high school students or drop-outs,

1 individuals who do not enroll in a traditional 2-year or 4-year
2 post-secondary academic program, and teenage mothers. The Task
3 Force shall develop appropriate timeframes for completion of
4 educational or job-training programs and link the
5 discontinuation of a recipient's benefits upon such completion
6 and transition into the job market.

7 (c) The Task Force shall meet on a periodic basis to
8 examine and compile data regarding educational and
9 job-training programs and resources as well as levels of
10 benefits that recipients receive from the State's General
11 Assistance program.

12 (d) The Department of Human Services shall provide
13 administrative support to the Task Force and shall maintain a
14 database of information that tracks the overall trends of the
15 5-year plan and provide quarterly updates to the public in both
16 electronic and written formats.

17 (e) The Task Force shall document its findings and
18 recommendations in a 5-year plan to the General Assembly and
19 the Governor by January 1, 2013.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.