

1 AN ACT concerning health.

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 Illinois Mental Health First Aid Training Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose. Through the use of innovative
7 strategies, Mental Health First Aid training shall be
8 implemented throughout the State. Mental Health First Aid
9 training is designed to train individuals to assist someone who
10 is developing a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
11 substance abuse disorder, or who is experiencing a mental
12 health or substance abuse crisis and it can be reasonably
13 assumed that a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
14 substance abuse disorder is a contributing or precipitating
15 factor.

16 Section 10. Definitions.

17 "Illinois Mental Health First Aid training program" means
18 the Mental Health First Aid training program administered by
19 the Department of Human Services.

20 "Certified trainers" means individuals who obtain
21 certification in Mental Health First Aid training by
22 successfully completing (i) the Instructor Training Program

1 offered by the Illinois Mental Health First Aid training
2 program or (ii) the Instructor Training Program offered by the
3 National Authorities of Mental Health First Aid.

4 Section 15. Illinois Mental Health First Aid training
5 program. The Department of Human Services shall administer the
6 Illinois Mental Health First Aid training program so that
7 certified trainers can provide Illinois residents,
8 professionals, and members of the public with training on how
9 to identify and assist someone who is believed to be developing
10 or has developed a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
11 substance abuse disorder or who is believed to be experiencing
12 a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

13 Section 20. Mental health first aid training grants.
14 Subject to appropriations made to the Department of Human
15 Services and other State agencies, the Department of Human
16 Services and other State agencies shall support training grants
17 for Illinois Mental Health First Aid training. These training
18 grants may support hardship subsidies for Illinois Mental
19 Health First Aid training fees.

20 Section 25. Objectives of the training program. The
21 Illinois Mental Health First Aid training program shall be
22 designed to train individuals to accomplish the following
23 objectives as deemed appropriate for the individuals to be

1 trained, taking into consideration the individual's age:

2 (1) Build mental health, alcohol abuse, and substance
3 abuse literacy designed to help the public identify,
4 understand, and respond to the signs of mental illness,
5 alcohol abuse, and substance abuse.

6 (2) Assist someone who is believed to be developing or
7 has developed a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
8 substance abuse disorder or who is believed to be
9 experiencing a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
10 substance abuse crisis. Such assistance shall include the
11 following:

12 (A) Knowing how to recognize the symptoms of a
13 mental health disorder or an alcohol or substance abuse
14 disorder.

15 (B) Knowing how to provide initial help.

16 (C) Knowing how to guide individuals requiring
17 assistance toward appropriate professional help,
18 including help for individuals who may be in crisis.

19 (D) Knowing how to provide comfort to the person
20 experiencing a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
21 substance abuse disorder.

22 (E) Knowing how to prevent a mental health disorder
23 or an alcohol or substance abuse disorder from
24 deteriorating into a more serious condition which may
25 lead to more costly interventions and treatments.

26 (F) Knowing how to promote healing, recovery, and

1 good mental health.

2 Section 30. Distribution of training grants. When awarding
3 training grants under this Act, the Department or other
4 appropriate State agency shall distribute training grants
5 equitably among the geographical regions of the State paying
6 particular attention to the training needs of rural areas and
7 areas with underserved populations or professional shortages.

8 Section 35. Evaluation. The Department of Human Services,
9 as the Illinois Mental Health First Aid training authority,
10 shall ensure that evaluative criteria are established which
11 measure the distribution of the training grants and the
12 fidelity of the training processes to the objective of building
13 mental health, alcohol abuse, and substance abuse literacy
14 designed to help the public identify, understand, and respond
15 to the signs of mental illness, alcohol abuse, and substance
16 abuse.

17 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
18 becoming law.