



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB2591

by Rep. Esther Golar

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Employment First Act. Provides that: it is the policy of this State that competitive and integrated employment shall be considered the first option when serving persons with disabilities of working age; the policy applies to programs and services that provide services and supports to help persons with disabilities obtain employment; State agencies shall follow the policy and ensure that it is effectively implemented in their programs and services; and nothing in the provisions setting forth the policy shall be construed to require any employer to give preference to hiring persons with disabilities. Requires State agencies to: coordinate efforts and collaborate to ensure that State programs, policies, procedures, and funding support competitive and integrated employment of persons with disabilities; and, whenever feasible, share data and information across systems in order to track progress toward full implementation of the Act. Authorizes State agencies to adopt rules to implement the Act. Provides that: the Employment and Economic Opportunity for Persons with Disabilities Task Force shall establish measurable goals and objectives for the State to ensure implementation of the Act and monitor the measured progress toward its implementation; State agencies shall fully cooperate with the Task Force and provide data and information to assist the Task Force; and the Task Force shall include in its annual report a progress report on the implementation of the Act and any recommendations with respect to its implementation. Effective immediately.

LRB098 07302 JLS 37365 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Illinois Employment First Act.

6 Section 5. Policy. It is the policy of this State that
7 competitive and integrated employment shall be considered the
8 first option when serving persons with disabilities of working
9 age. This policy applies to programs and services that provide
10 services and supports to help persons with disabilities obtain
11 employment. All State agencies shall follow this policy and
12 ensure that it is effectively implemented in their programs and
13 services. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require
14 any employer to give preference to hiring persons with
15 disabilities.

16 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

17 "Competitive employment" means work in the competitive
18 labor market that is performed on a full-time or part-time
19 basis in an integrated setting and for which an individual is
20 compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the
21 customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for
22 the same or similar work performed by individuals who are not

1 disabled.

2 "Disability" has the meaning ascribed to that term in
3 Section 10 of the Disabilities Services Act of 2003.

4 "Integrated setting" means with respect to an employment
5 outcome, a setting typically found in the community in which
6 applicants or eligible individuals interact with non-disabled
7 individuals, other than non-disabled individuals who are
8 providing services to those applicants or eligible
9 individuals, to the same extent that non-disabled individuals
10 in comparable positions interact with other persons.

11 Section 15. Agency coordination. All State agencies shall
12 coordinate efforts and shall collaborate within and among such
13 agencies to ensure that State programs, policies, procedures,
14 and funding support competitive and integrated employment of
15 persons with disabilities. All State agencies shall, whenever
16 feasible, share data and information across systems in order to
17 track progress toward full implementation of this Act. State
18 agencies are authorized to adopt rules to implement this Act.

19 Section 20. Establishment of measurable goals and
20 objectives. The Employment and Economic Opportunity for
21 Persons with Disabilities Task Force established under the
22 Employment and Economic Opportunity for Persons with
23 Disabilities Task Force Act shall establish measurable goals
24 and objectives for the State to ensure implementation of this

1 Act and monitor the measured progress toward implementation of
2 this Act. All State agencies shall fully cooperate with the
3 Task Force and provide data and information to assist the Task
4 Force in carrying out its responsibilities. The Task Force
5 shall include in its annual report a progress report on the
6 implementation of this Act and any recommendations with respect
7 to the implementation of this Act.

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
9 becoming law.