



Sen. Steve Stadelman

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2906

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 2906, AS AMENDED,  
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the  
4 following:

5 "Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by  
6 changing Section 9A-8 as follows:

7 (305 ILCS 5/9A-8) (from Ch. 23, par. 9A-8)

8 Sec. 9A-8. Operation of Program.

9 (a) At the time of application or redetermination of  
10 eligibility under Article IV, as determined by rule, the  
11 Illinois Department shall provide information in writing and  
12 orally regarding the education, training and employment  
13 program to all applicants and recipients. The information  
14 required shall be established by rule and shall include, but  
15 need not be limited to:

16 (1) education (including literacy training),

1 employment and training opportunities available, the  
2 criteria for approval of those opportunities, and the right  
3 to request changes in the personal responsibility and  
4 services plan to include those opportunities;

5 (1.1) a complete list of all activities that are  
6 approvable activities, and the circumstances under which  
7 they are approvable, including work activities, substance  
8 abuse or mental health treatment, activities to escape and  
9 prevent domestic violence, caring for a medically impaired  
10 family member, and any other approvable activities,  
11 together with the right to and procedures for amending the  
12 responsibility and services plan to include these  
13 activities;

14 (1.2) the rules concerning the lifetime limit on  
15 eligibility, including the current status of the applicant  
16 or recipient in terms of the months of remaining  
17 eligibility, the criteria under which a month will not  
18 count towards the lifetime limit, and the criteria under  
19 which a recipient may receive benefits beyond the end of  
20 the lifetime limit;

21 (2) supportive services including child care and the  
22 rules regarding eligibility for and access to the child  
23 care assistance program, transportation, initial expenses  
24 of employment, job retention, books and fees, and any other  
25 supportive services;

26 (3) the obligation of the Department to provide

1           supportive services;

2           (4) the rights and responsibilities of participants,  
3 including exemption, sanction, reconciliation, and good  
4 cause criteria and procedures, termination for  
5 non-cooperation and reinstatement rules and procedures,  
6 and appeal and grievance procedures; and

7           (5) the types and locations of child care services.

8           (b) The Illinois Department shall notify the recipient in  
9 writing of the opportunity to volunteer to participate in the  
10 program.

11          (c) (Blank).

12          (d) As part of the personal plan for achieving employment  
13 and self-sufficiency, the Department shall conduct an  
14 individualized assessment of the participant's employability.  
15 No participant may be assigned to any component of the  
16 education, training and employment activity prior to such  
17 assessment. The plan shall include collection of information on  
18 the individual's background, proficiencies, skills  
19 deficiencies, education level, work history, employment goals,  
20 interests, aptitudes, and employment preferences, as well as  
21 factors affecting employability or ability to meet  
22 participation requirements (e.g., health, physical or mental  
23 limitations, child care, family circumstances, domestic  
24 violence, sexual violence, substance abuse, and special needs  
25 of any child of the individual). As part of the plan,  
26 individuals and Department staff shall work together to

1 identify any supportive service needs required to enable the  
2 client to participate and meet the objectives of his or her  
3 employability plan. The assessment may be conducted through  
4 various methods such as interviews, testing, counseling, and  
5 self-assessment instruments. In the assessment process, the  
6 Department shall offer to include standard literacy testing and  
7 a determination of English language proficiency and shall  
8 provide it for those who accept the offer. Based on the  
9 assessment, the individual will be assigned to the appropriate  
10 activity. The decision will be based on a determination of the  
11 individual's level of preparation for employment as defined by  
12 rule.

13 (e) Recipients determined to be exempt may volunteer to  
14 participate pursuant to Section 9A-4 and must be assessed.

15 (f) As part of the personal plan for achieving employment  
16 and self-sufficiency under Section 4-1, an employability plan  
17 for recipients shall be developed in consultation with the  
18 participant. The Department shall have final responsibility  
19 for approving the employability plan. The employability plan  
20 shall:

21 (1) contain an employment goal of the participant;

22 (2) describe the services to be provided by the  
23 Department, including child care and other support  
24 services;

25 (3) describe the activities, such as component  
26 assignment, that will be undertaken by the participant to

1        achieve the employment goal. The Department shall treat  
2        participation in high school and high school equivalency  
3        programs as a core activity and count participation in high  
4        school and high school equivalency programs toward the  
5        first 20 hours per week of participation. The Department  
6        shall approve participation in high school or high school  
7        equivalency programs upon written or oral request of the  
8        participant if he or she has not already earned a high  
9        school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate.  
10       However, participation in high school or high school  
11       equivalency programs may be delayed as part of an  
12       applicant's or recipient's personal plan for achieving  
13       employment and self-sufficiency if it is determined that  
14       the benefit from participating in another activity, such  
15       as, but not limited to, treatment for substance abuse or an  
16       English proficiency program, would be greater to the  
17       applicant or recipient than participation in high school or  
18       a high school equivalency program. The availability of high  
19       school and high school equivalency programs may also delay  
20       enrollment in those programs. The Department shall treat  
21       such activities as a core activity as long as satisfactory  
22       progress is made, as determined by the high school or high  
23       school equivalency program. Proof of satisfactory progress  
24       shall be provided by the participant or the school at the  
25       end of each academic term; and

26            (4) describe any other needs of the family that might

1 be met by the Department.

2 (g) The employability plan shall take into account:

3 (1) available program resources;

4 (2) the participant's support service needs;

5 (3) the participant's skills level and aptitudes;

6 (4) local employment opportunities; and

7 (5) the preferences of the participant.

8 (h) A reassessment shall be conducted to assess a  
9 participant's progress and to review the employability plan on  
10 the following occasions:

11 (1) upon completion of an activity and before  
12 assignment to an activity;

13 (2) upon the request of the participant;

14 (3) if the individual is not cooperating with the  
15 requirements of the program; and

16 (4) if the individual has failed to make satisfactory  
17 progress in an education or training program.

18 Based on the reassessment, the Department may revise the  
19 employability plan of the participant.

20 (Source: P.A. 96-866, eff. 7-1-10.)".