

1 AN ACT concerning the Prairie State 2000 Authority.

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

4 Section 5. The Prairie State 2000 Authority Act is
5 amended by changing Section 2 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 4020/2) (from Ch. 48, par. 1502)

7 Sec. 2. Declaration of findings and purpose.

8 (a) The Illinois General Assembly finds that

9 (i) The State of Illinois possesses a highly
10 talented, conscientious and industrious labor force,
11 unmatched by any other state or nation;

12 (ii) Substantial changes being experienced in all
13 economic sectors and the rapid growth of industries which
14 employ new technologies have caused severe economic and
15 employment dislocations in this State;

16 (iii) Such dislocations have caused substantial
17 hardships for all people of the State of Illinois;

18 (iv) There exists a large surplus of workers
19 throughout the State who are ready, willing and able to
20 work but who lack the appropriate skills to perform the
21 specialized tasks for modern business and industry;

22 (v) A significant barrier to re-employment and new
23 employment is the financial cost of participation in high
24 quality technical and educational programs which will
25 qualify an individual for modern employment
26 opportunities;

27 (vi) A substantial impediment to attracting new
28 businesses and to encouraging the modernization of
29 existing businesses in Illinois has been the shortage of
30 workers who can perform the specialized tasks required by
31 the new technologies of modern business;

1 (vii) It is the duty and responsibility of the
2 State to offer educational and vocational training
3 opportunities to its citizens.

4 (b) The General Assembly declares it is the policy of
5 the State of Illinois to encourage continuing educational,
6 technical and vocational training by providing a source of
7 assistance to individuals who wish to improve their skills,
8 talent and education and by providing training grants and
9 loans to employers who are retraining workers threatened with
10 layoff or who are increasing the number of jobs available to
11 Illinois workers, are expanding the tax base in Illinois or
12 are increasing Illinois exports.

13 (c) The purpose of this Act is to establish employment
14 training programs which foster job creation, reduce employer
15 unemployment costs, and meet the needs of the economy for
16 skilled workers by providing job-linked training for
17 unemployment insurance claimants and potentially displaced
18 workers who could become such claimants.

19 (Source: P.A. 84-1438.)