

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 9A-11.2 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/9A-11.2 new)

7 Sec. 9A-11.2. Workforce study. The Department shall
8 conduct and regularly update a study on the early childhood
9 workforce at least once every 3 years. The study shall:

10 (a) describe the professional development system for
11 the early childhood workforce and characteristics of the
12 workforce;

13 (b) determine compensation levels that are sufficient
14 to attract, support, and retain a workforce of high-quality
15 child care providers by doing the following:

16 (1) ensuring fair and competitive compensation for
17 high-quality child care providers;

18 (2) recognizing child care providers who have the
19 specialized knowledge and competencies of early
20 childhood educators; and

21 (3) recognizing child care providers who offer a
22 rich learning environment, use evidence-based
23 classroom practices, and have provider competencies in

1 engaging in stimulating, warm, and responsive
2 adult-child interactions; and

3 (c) make recommendations to help create an accessible and
4 well-supported career advancement pathway and estimate the
5 providers' costs of implementing training and professional
6 development, including the compensation levels described in
7 subsection (b); and

8 (d) describe how the Department can set provider payment
9 rates sufficient to allow providers to achieve the compensation
10 levels identified in subsection (b).

11 The Department shall conduct the study required under this
12 Section by carrying out a cost of quality study or survey that
13 the Department is currently conducting, as a requirement of its
14 State plan under Section 658E of the Child Care and Development
15 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c), and utilize the
16 information to set base payment rates.