



SR0484

LRB101 12735 MST 61534 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, As more national attention is brought to issues
3 such as worker exploitation and economic inequality, evidence
4 suggests a major contributing factor is wage theft; studies
5 have found that wage theft costs individual workers hundreds of
6 millions of dollars in wages and benefits per year; and

7 WHEREAS, Further compounding the issue is a national growth
8 in the underground economy, which, while typically associated
9 with trafficking, prostitution, and piracy, has seen a growing
10 portion of illegal practices within labor sectors such as
11 construction, auto repair, and food service; practices include
12 the violation of labor, tax, insurance, and licensing laws; and

13 WHEREAS, These activities are detrimental not only to the
14 workers in these industries, many of whom are immigrants, but
15 also to the residents of Illinois; the strengthening of an
16 underground economy harms the people of Illinois by requiring
17 the subsidization of bad actors while simultaneously placing
18 workers in harm's way; and

19 WHEREAS, Wage theft and the underground economy also injure
20 business owners who abide by the rules; they cannot compete
21 against those who offer lower prices due to illegal practices
22 that expose consumers to greater risks of substandard service;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Such issues may be rampant in the construction
3 industry where there is a myriad of contractual relationships
4 resulting in worker confusion and unclear employment
5 relationships as well as employee misidentification; and

6 WHEREAS, An industry where safety is of paramount concern
7 must also prioritize the well-being and health of employees,
8 including financial well-being; in order to protect all
9 workers, it is necessary to close loopholes that allow for the
10 exploitation of human labor for profit; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois
13 Department of Labor to investigate the prevalence of wage theft
14 and the underground economy in the State of Illinois and submit
15 to the General Assembly a report providing data on the issue
16 along with recommendations for eliminating such unlawful labor
17 practices throughout the State; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 delivered to the Illinois Department of Labor.