

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 5. The Code of Civil Procedure is amended by  
5 changing Section 13-206 as follows:

6 (735 ILCS 5/13-206) (from Ch. 110, par. 13-206)

7 Sec. 13-206. Ten year limitation. Except as provided in  
8 Section 2-725 of the "Uniform Commercial Code", actions on  
9 bonds, promissory notes, bills of exchange, written leases,  
10 written contracts, or other evidences of indebtedness in  
11 writing and actions brought under the Illinois Wage Payment and  
12 Collection Act, shall be commenced within 10 years next after  
13 the cause of action accrued; but if any payment or new promise  
14 to pay has been made, in writing, on any bond, note, bill,  
15 lease, contract, or other written evidence of indebtedness,  
16 within or after the period of 10 years, then an action may be  
17 commenced thereon at any time within 10 years after the time of  
18 such payment or promise to pay. For purposes of this Section,  
19 with regard to promissory notes dated on or after the effective  
20 date of this amendatory Act of 1997, a cause of action on a  
21 promissory note payable at a definite date accrues on the due  
22 date or date stated in the promissory note or the date upon  
23 which the promissory note is accelerated. With respect to a

1 demand promissory note dated on or after the effective date of  
2 this amendatory Act of 1997, if a demand for payment is made to  
3 the maker of the demand promissory note, an action to enforce  
4 the obligation of a party to pay the demand promissory note  
5 must be commenced within 10 years after the demand. An action  
6 to enforce a demand promissory note is barred if neither  
7 principal nor interest on the demand promissory note has been  
8 paid for a continuous period of 10 years and no demand for  
9 payment has been made to the maker during that period.

10 (Source: P.A. 90-451, eff. 1-1-98.)

11 Section 10. The Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act is  
12 amended by changing Sections 11 and 14 as follows:

13 (820 ILCS 115/11) (from Ch. 48, par. 39m-11)

14 Sec. 11. It shall be the duty of the Department of Labor to  
15 inquire diligently for any violations of this Act, and to  
16 institute the actions for penalties herein provided, and to  
17 enforce generally the provisions of this Act.

18 An employee may file a complaint with the Department  
19 alleging violations of the Act by submitting a signed,  
20 completed wage claim application on the form provided by the  
21 Department and by submitting copies of all supporting  
22 documentation. Complaints shall be filed within one year after  
23 the wages, final compensation, or wage supplements were due.

24 Applications shall be reviewed by the Department to

1 determine whether there is cause for investigation.

2 The department shall have the following powers:

3 (a) To investigate and attempt equitably to adjust  
4 controversies between employees and employers in respect of  
5 wage claims arising under this Act and to that end the  
6 department through the Director of Labor or any other person in  
7 the Department of Labor designated by him or her, shall have  
8 the power to administer oaths, subpoena and examine witnesses,  
9 to issue subpoenas duces tecum requiring the production of such  
10 books, papers, records and documents as may be evidence of any  
11 matter under inquiry and to examine and inspect the same as may  
12 relate to the question in dispute. Service of such subpoenas  
13 shall be made by any sheriff or any person. Any court in this  
14 State, upon the application of the department may compel  
15 attendance of witnesses, the production of books and papers,  
16 and the giving of testimony before the department by attachment  
17 for contempt or in any other way as the production of evidence  
18 may be compelled before such court.

19 (b) To take assignments of wage claims in the name of the  
20 Director of Labor and his or her successors in office and  
21 prosecute actions for the collection of wages for persons  
22 financially unable to prosecute such claims when in the  
23 judgment of the department such claims are valid and  
24 enforceable in the courts. No court costs or any fees for  
25 necessary process and proceedings shall be payable in advance  
26 by the department for prosecuting such actions. In the event

1 there is a judgment rendered against the defendant, the court  
2 shall assess as part of such judgment the costs of such  
3 proceeding. Upon collection of such judgments the department  
4 shall pay from the proceeds of such judgment such costs to such  
5 person who is by law entitled to same. The department may join  
6 in a single proceeding any number of wage claims against the  
7 same employer but the court shall have discretionary power to  
8 order a severance or separate trial for hearings.

9 (c) To make complaint in any court of competent  
10 jurisdiction of violations of this Act.

11 Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any employee  
12 from making complaint or prosecuting his or her own claim for  
13 wages.

14 Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the authority of  
15 the State's attorney of any county to prosecute actions for  
16 violation of this Act or to enforce the provisions thereof  
17 independently and without specific direction of the Department  
18 of Labor.

19 (Source: P.A. 83-1362.)

20 (820 ILCS 115/14) (from Ch. 48, par. 39m-14)

21 Sec. 14. (a) Any employer or any agent of an employer, who,  
22 being able to pay wages, final compensation, or wage  
23 supplements and being under a duty to pay, wilfully refuses to  
24 pay as provided in this Act, or falsely denies the amount or  
25 validity thereof or that the same is due, with intent to secure

1 for himself or other person any underpayment of such  
2 indebtedness or with intent to annoy, harass, oppress, hinder,  
3 delay or defraud the person to whom such indebtedness is due,  
4 upon conviction, is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. Each day  
5 during which any violation of this Act continues shall  
6 constitute a separate and distinct offense.

7 (b) Any employer who has been demanded by the Director of  
8 Labor or ordered by the court to pay wages due an employee and  
9 who shall fail to do so within 15 days after such demand or  
10 order is entered shall be liable to pay a penalty of 1% per  
11 calendar day to the employee for each day of delay in paying  
12 such wages to the employee up to an amount equal to twice the  
13 sum of unpaid wages due the employee. Such employer shall also  
14 be liable to the Department of Labor for 20% of such unpaid  
15 wages.

16 (b-5) Penalties under this Section may be recovered in a  
17 civil action brought by the Director in any circuit court. In  
18 this litigation, the Director of Labor shall be represented by  
19 the Attorney General.

20 (c) Any employer, or any agent of an employer, who  
21 knowingly discharges or in any other manner knowingly  
22 discriminates against any employee because that employee has  
23 made a complaint to his employer, or to the Director of Labor  
24 or his authorized representative, that he or she has not been  
25 paid in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or because  
26 that employee has caused to be instituted any proceeding under

1 or related to this Act, or because that employee has testified  
2 or is about to testify in an investigation or proceeding under  
3 this Act, is guilty, upon conviction, of a Class C misdemeanor.  
4 (Source: P.A. 94-1025, eff. 7-14-06.)

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6 becoming law.