

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The Public Community College Act is amended by  
5 adding Section 2-24 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 805/2-24 new)

7 Sec. 2-24. We Want to Learn English Initiative.

8 (a) Subject to appropriation and Section 7 of the Board of  
9 Higher Education Act, the State Board may establish and  
10 administer a We Want to Learn English Initiative to provide  
11 resources for immigrants and refugees in this State to learn  
12 English in order to move towards becoming full members of  
13 American society.

14 (b) Each fiscal year, the State Board may include, as a  
15 separate line item, in its budget proposal \$15,000,000 or less  
16 in funding for the We Want to Learn English Initiative, to be  
17 disbursed by the State Board. If the State Board decides to  
18 disburse the funds appropriated for this Initiative, then it  
19 must disburse no less than half of the funds appropriated each  
20 fiscal year to community-based, not-for-profit organizations,  
21 immigrant social service organizations, faith-based  
22 organizations, and on-site job training programs so that  
23 immigrants and refugees can learn English where they live,

1 work, pray, and socialize and where their children go to  
2 school.

3 (c) Funds for the We Want to Learn English Initiative may  
4 be used only to provide programs that teach English to United  
5 States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and other persons  
6 residing in this State who are in lawful immigration status.