

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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

4 Section 5. The Mental Health and Developmental
5 Disabilities Administrative Act is amended by changing Section
6 4.4 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 1705/4.4)

8 Sec. 4.4. Direct support professional credential pilot
9 program.

10 (a) In this Section, "direct support professional ~~person~~
11 credential" means a document issued to an individual by a
12 recognized accrediting body attesting that the individual has
13 met the professional requirements of the credentialing program
14 by the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the
15 Department of Human Services.

16 (b) The Division or a Division partner shall initiate a
17 program to continue to gain the expertise and knowledge of the
18 developmental disabilities workforce and of the developmental
19 disabilities workforce recruitment and retention needs
20 throughout the developmental disabilities field. The Division
21 shall implement a direct support professional credential pilot
22 program to assist and attract persons into the field of direct
23 support, advance direct support as a career, and

1 professionalize the field to promote workforce recruitment and
2 retention efforts, advanced skills and competencies, and
3 further ensure the health, safety, and well-being of persons
4 being served.

5 (c) The direct support professional credential pilot
6 program is created within the Division to assist persons in
7 the field of developmental disabilities in obtaining a
8 credential in their fields of expertise.

9 (d) The pilot program shall be administered by the
10 Division for 3 years, beginning in Fiscal Year 2028 ~~2025~~. The
11 pilot program shall include providers licensed and certified
12 by the Division or by the Department of Public Health. The
13 purpose of the pilot program is to assess how the
14 establishment of a State-administered direct support
15 professional credential:

16 (1) promotes recruitment and retention efforts in the
17 developmental disabilities field, notably the direct
18 support professional position;

19 (2) enhances competence in the developmental
20 disabilities field;

21 (3) yields quality supports and services to persons
22 with developmental disabilities; and

23 (4) advances the health and safety requirements set
24 forth by the State.

25 (e) The Division or a Division partner, in administering
26 the pilot program, shall consider, but not be limited to, the

1 following:

2 (1) best practices learning initiatives, including the
3 University of Minnesota's college of direct support and
4 all Illinois Department of Human Services-approved direct
5 support professional competencies;

6 (2) national direct support professional competencies
7 or credentialing-based standards and trainings;

8 (3) facilitating direct support professional's
9 portfolio development;

10 (4) the role and value of skill mentors; and

11 (5) creating a career ladder.

12 (f) The Division shall produce a report detailing the
13 progress of the pilot program, including, but not limited to:

14 (1) the rate of recruitment and retention for direct
15 support professionals of providers participating in the
16 pilot program compared to the rate for non-participating
17 providers;

18 (2) the number of direct support professional
19 credentialed; and

20 (3) the enhancement of quality supports and services
21 to persons with developmental disabilities.

22 (Source: P.A. 102-830, eff. 1-1-23; 103-998, eff. 8-9-24;
23 revised 6-26-25.)

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
25 becoming law.