



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1979

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Sen. Willie Preston

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 1005/1005-170 new

Amends the Department of Employment Security Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Department of Employment Security shall create a self-employment assistance program to provide benefits to individuals who are working to start a business in the State and who are otherwise eligible to receive benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act. Provides that a participant in the program shall be deemed to be actively engaged in seeking work as required under the Unemployment Insurance Act. Provides that benefits paid to a participant in the program are considered to be benefits paid under the Unemployment Insurance Act. Provides that the Department of Employment Security shall adopt rules to implement and administer the program.

LRB104 08296 SPS 18347 b

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 Department of Employment Security Law of
5 the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is amended by adding
6 Section 1005-170 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 1005/1005-170 new)

8 Sec. 1005-170. Self-employment assistance program. The
9 Department of Employment Security shall create a
10 self-employment assistance program to provide benefits to
11 individuals who are working to start a business in this State
12 and who are otherwise eligible to receive benefits under the
13 Unemployment Insurance Act. A participant in the program shall
14 be deemed to be actively engaged in seeking work as required
15 under paragraph (5) of subsection (K) of Section 409 of the
16 Unemployment Insurance Act. Except as provided in this
17 Section, benefits paid to a participant in the program are
18 considered to be benefits paid under the Unemployment
19 Insurance Act. The Department of Employment Security shall
20 adopt rules to implement and administer this Section.