

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 Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois
6 is amended by changing Section 605-1032 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-1032)

8 Sec. 605-1032. Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "Eligible not-for-profit corporation" means a
11 not-for-profit corporation, as defined in Section 101.80 of
12 the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, that
13 primarily serves minorities, women, veterans, or persons with
14 a disability.

15 "Employment social enterprise" means a nonprofit or
16 for-profit organization that:

17 (1) demonstrates a mission to provide employment and
18 social supports with on-the-job and life skills training
19 to individuals with a barrier to employment; and

20 (2) provides services or produces or assembles goods,
21 or a combination of both.

22 "Office" means the Office of Economic Equity and
23 Empowerment.

1 (b) The Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment is
2 hereby created within the Department. The Office shall assist
3 minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses,
4 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with
5 disabilities, employment social enterprises, eligible
6 not-for-profit corporations, and other underserved communities
7 and constituencies through targeted programs, resources, and
8 outreach and promotional activities. The Office may engage in
9 or conduct the following activities:

10 (1) promoting and conducting outreach efforts to
11 ensure access to State and federal funding opportunities,
12 and assisting minority-owned businesses, women-owned
13 businesses, veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by
14 persons with disabilities, employment social enterprises,
15 eligible not-for-profit corporations, and other
16 underserved communities and constituencies in applying for
17 and receiving loan funds in the State;

18 (2) providing and hosting workshops and public forums
19 and engaging in outreach efforts for minority-owned
20 businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned
21 businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities,
22 employment social enterprises, and other underserved
23 communities and constituencies to encourage participation
24 in programs under the Business Enterprise for Minorities,
25 Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act, and assisting
26 those businesses in becoming designated under that Act and

1 under similar certification programs;

2 (3) providing and hosting workshops and public forums
3 and engaging in outreach efforts that assist and educate
4 minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses,
5 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with
6 disabilities, employment social enterprises, eligible
7 not-for-profit corporations, and other underserved
8 communities and constituencies on the process of applying
9 for and becoming certified to apply for State grant funds
10 under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act;

11 (4) providing and hosting workshops and public forums
12 and engaging in outreach efforts that assist and educate
13 aspiring and existing minority-owned businesses,
14 women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses,
15 businesses owned by persons with disabilities, employment
16 social enterprises, eligible not-for-profit corporations,
17 and other underserved communities and constituencies with
18 understanding concepts including, but not limited to,
19 business formation and not-for-profit incorporation,
20 business planning, capital access, and marketing a
21 business or not-for-profit corporation;

22 (5) administering programs established by the
23 Department or the General Assembly to provide grants to
24 minority-owned businesses, woman-owned businesses,
25 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with
26 disabilities, employment social enterprises, eligible

1 not-for-profit corporations, and other underserved
2 communities and constituencies;

3 (6) coordinating assistance for minority-owned
4 businesses, woman-owned businesses, veteran-owned
5 businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities,
6 employment social enterprises, eligible not-for-profit
7 corporations, and other underserved communities and
8 constituencies with other State agencies;

9 (7) providing staff, administration, and related
10 support required to administer this Section; and

11 (8) establishing applications, notifications,
12 contracts, and other forms and procedures, and adopting
13 rules deemed necessary and appropriate.

14 (c) The Office may use vendors or enter into contracts to
15 carry out the purposes of this Section, including, but not
16 limited to, engaging employment social enterprises as service
17 providers for workforce development, business training, and
18 economic empowerment programs.

19 (Source: P.A. 103-889, eff. 1-1-25.)