



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB2154

by Rep. Sara Feigenholtz

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/9-6 from Ch. 23, par. 9-6
305 ILCS 5/9A-9.1 new
305 ILCS 5/12-4.52 new

Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that, for recipients of public aid who are required to comply with the terms of a service plan developed by the Department of Children and Family Services, participation in substance abuse treatment, drug testing, parenting classes, anger management, domestic violence counseling, evaluations, or any other activities specified in the service plan shall count as an approvable job search activity under TANF employment, education, and training programs; the SNAP Employment and Training Program; and any job search, training, and work programs authorized under Article IX of the Code. Requires the Department of Human Services to apply for any federal waivers or approvals necessary to implement the job search exemption.

LRB101 04633 KTG 49642 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
5 changing Section 9-6 by adding Sections 9A-9.1 and 12-4.52 as
6 follows:

7 (305 ILCS 5/9-6) (from Ch. 23, par. 9-6)

8 Sec. 9-6. Job Search, Training and Work Programs. The
9 Illinois Department and local governmental units shall
10 initiate, promote and develop job search, training and work
11 programs which will provide employment for and contribute to
12 the training and experience of persons receiving aid under
13 Articles III, V, and VI.

14 The job search, training and work programs shall be
15 designed to preserve and improve the work habits and skills of
16 recipients for whom jobs are not otherwise immediately
17 available and to provide training and experience for recipients
18 who lack the skills required for such employment opportunities
19 as are or may become available. The Illinois Department and
20 local governmental unit shall determine by rule those classes
21 of recipients who shall be subject to participation in such
22 programs. If made subject to participation, every applicant for
23 or recipient of public aid who is determined to be "able to

1 engage in employment", as defined by the Department or local
2 governmental unit pursuant to rules and regulations, for whom
3 unsubsidized jobs are not otherwise immediately available
4 shall be required to participate in any program established
5 under this Section.

6 The Illinois Department shall establish with the Director
7 of Central Management Services an outreach and training program
8 designed to encourage and assist recipients participating in
9 job search, training and work programs to participate in open
10 competitive examinations for trainee and other entry level
11 positions to maximize opportunities for placement on open
12 competitive eligible listings and referral to State agencies
13 for employment consideration.

14 The Department shall provide payment for transportation,
15 day-care and Workers' Compensation costs which occur for
16 recipients as a result of participating in job search, training
17 and work programs as described in this Section. The Department
18 may decline to initiate such programs in areas where eligible
19 recipients would be so few in number as to not economically
20 justify such programs; and in this event the Department shall
21 not require persons in such areas to participate in any job
22 search, training, or work programs whatsoever as a condition of
23 their continued receipt of, or application for, aid.

24 The programs may include, but shall not be limited to,
25 service in child care centers, in preschool programs as teacher
26 aides and in public health programs as home visitors and health

1 aides; the maintenance of or services required in connection
2 with public offices, buildings and grounds; state, county and
3 municipal hospitals, forest preserves, parks, playgrounds,
4 streets and highways, and other governmental maintenance or
5 construction directed toward environmental improvement; and
6 similar facilities.

7 The Illinois Department or local governmental units may
8 enter into agreements with local taxing bodies and private
9 not-for-profit organizations, agencies and institutions to
10 provide for the supervision and administration of job search,
11 work and training projects authorized by this Section. Such
12 agreements shall stipulate the requirements for utilization of
13 recipients in such projects. In addition to any other
14 requirements dealing with the administration of these
15 programs, the Department shall assure, pursuant to rules and
16 regulations, that:

17 (a) Recipients may not displace regular employees.

18 (b) The maximum number of hours of mandatory work is 8
19 hours per day and 40 hours per week, not to exceed 120
20 hours per month.

21 (c) The maximum number of hours per month shall be
22 determined by dividing the recipient's benefits by the
23 federal minimum wage, rounded to the lowest full hour.
24 "Recipient's benefits" in this subsection includes: (i)
25 both cash assistance and food stamps provided to the entire
26 assistance unit or household by the Illinois Department

1 where the job search, work and training program is
2 administered by the Illinois Department and, where federal
3 programs are involved, includes all such cash assistance
4 and food stamps provided to the greatest extent allowed by
5 federal law; or (ii) includes only cash assistance provided
6 to the entire assistance unit by the local governmental
7 unit where the job search, work and training program is
8 administered by the local governmental unit.

9 (d) The recipient shall be provided or compensated for
10 transportation to and from the work location.

11 (e) Appropriate terms regarding recipient compensation
12 are met.

13 Local taxing bodies and private not-for-profit
14 organizations, agencies and institutions which utilize
15 recipients in job search, work and training projects authorized
16 by this Section are urged to include such recipients in the
17 formulation of their employment policies.

18 Unless directly paid by an employing local taxing body or
19 not-for-profit agency, a recipient participating in a work
20 project who meets all requirements set forth by the Illinois
21 Department shall receive credit towards his or her monthly
22 assistance benefits for work performed based upon the
23 applicable minimum wage rate. Where a recipient is paid
24 directly by an employing agency, the Illinois Department or
25 local governmental unit shall provide for payment to such
26 employing entity the appropriate amount of assistance benefits

1 to which the recipient would otherwise be entitled under this
2 Code.

3 The Illinois Department or its designee, including local
4 governmental units, may enter into agreements with the agencies
5 or institutions providing work under programs established
6 hereunder for payment to each such employer (hereinafter called
7 "public service employer") of all or a portion of the wages to
8 be paid to persons for the work performed and other appropriate
9 costs.

10 If the number of persons receiving aid under Article VI is
11 insufficient to justify the establishment of job search,
12 training and work programs on a local basis by a local
13 governmental unit, or if for other good cause the establishment
14 of a local program is impractical or unwarranted, the local
15 governmental unit shall cooperate with other local
16 governmental units, with civic and non-profit community
17 agencies, and with the Illinois Department in developing a
18 program or programs which will jointly serve the participating
19 governmental units and agencies.

20 A local governmental unit receiving State funds shall refer
21 all recipients able to engage in employment to such job search,
22 training and work programs as are established, whether within
23 or without the governmental unit, and as are accessible to
24 persons receiving aid from the governmental unit. The Illinois
25 Department shall withhold allocation of state funds to any
26 governmental unit which fails or refuses to make such

1 referrals.

2 Participants in job search, training and work programs
3 shall be required to maintain current registration for regular
4 employment under Section 11-10 and to accept any bona fide
5 offer of regular employment. They shall likewise be required to
6 accept education, work and training opportunities available to
7 them under other provisions of this Code or Federal law. The
8 Illinois Department or local governmental unit shall provide by
9 rule for periodic review of the circumstances of each
10 participant to determine the feasibility of his placement in
11 regular employment or other work, education and training
12 opportunities.

13 Moneys made available for public aid purposes under
14 Articles IV and VI may be expended to pay public service
15 employers all or a portion of the wages of public service
16 employees and other appropriate costs, to provide necessary
17 supervisory personnel and equipment, to purchase Workers'
18 Compensation Insurance or to pay Workers' Compensation claims,
19 and to provide transportation to and from work sites.

20 The Department shall provide through rules and regulations
21 for sanctions against applicants and recipients of aid under
22 this Code who fail to cooperate with the regulations and
23 requirements established pursuant to this Section. Such
24 sanctions may include the loss of eligibility to receive aid
25 under Article VI of this Code for up to 3 months.

26 The Department, in cooperation with a local governmental

1 unit, may maintain a roster of persons who are required to
2 participate in a local job search, training and work program.
3 In such cases, the roster shall be available for inspection by
4 employers for the selection of possible workers.

5 In addition to the programs authorized by this Section, the
6 Illinois Department is authorized to administer any job search,
7 training or work projects in conjunction with the Federal Food
8 Stamp Program, either under this Section or under other
9 regulations required by the Federal government.

10 The Illinois Department may also administer pilot programs
11 to provide job search, training and work programs to unemployed
12 parents of children receiving child support enforcement
13 services under Article X of this Code.

14 Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Section, for
15 recipients required to comply with the terms of a service plan
16 developed by the Department of Children and Family Services,
17 participation in substance abuse treatment, drug testing,
18 parenting classes, anger management, domestic violence
19 counseling, evaluations, or any other activities specified in
20 the service plan shall count as an approvable job search
21 activity under any job search, training, and work programs
22 authorized under this Section.

23 (Source: P.A. 92-111, eff. 1-1-02; 92-590, eff. 7-1-02.)

24 (305 ILCS 5/9A-9.1 new)

25 Sec. 9A-9.1. Job search; approvable activities. For

1 recipients who are required to comply with the terms of a
2 service plan developed by the Department of Children and Family
3 Services, participation in substance abuse treatment, drug
4 testing, parenting classes, anger management, domestic
5 violence counseling, evaluations, or any other activities
6 specified in the service plan shall count as an approvable job
7 search activity under any education, training, and employment
8 program authorized under this Article. The Department of Human
9 Services shall apply for any federal waivers or approvals
10 necessary to implement this Section.

11 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.52 new)

12 Sec. 12-4.52. Job search; approvable activities; SNAP
13 recipients. For recipients of Supplemental Nutrition
14 Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits who are required to comply
15 with the terms of a service plan developed by the Department of
16 Children and Family Services, participation in substance abuse
17 treatment, drug testing, parenting classes, anger management,
18 domestic violence counseling, evaluations, or any other
19 activities specified in the service plan shall count as an
20 approvable job search activity under the SNAP Employment and
21 Training Program. The Department of Human Services shall apply
22 for any federal waivers or approvals necessary to implement
23 this Section.