

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 Sections 3-1 and 3-5 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/3-1) (from Ch. 23, par. 3-1)

7 Sec. 3-1. Eligibility Requirements. Financial aid in  
8 meeting basic maintenance requirements for a livelihood  
9 compatible with health and well-being shall be given under this  
10 Article to or in behalf of aged, blind, or disabled persons who  
11 meet the eligibility conditions of Sections 3-1.1 through  
12 3-1.7. Financial aid under this Article shall be available only  
13 for persons who are receiving Supplemental Security Income  
14 (SSI) or who have been found ineligible for SSI (i) on the  
15 basis of income or (ii) due to expiration of the period of  
16 eligibility for refugees and asylees pursuant to 8 U.S.C.  
17 1612(a)(2). Financial aid based on item (ii) of this paragraph  
18 shall be available until July 1, 2006.

19 "Aged person" means a person who has attained age 65, as  
20 demonstrated by such evidence of age as the Illinois Department  
21 may by rule prescribe.

22 "Blind person" means a person who has no vision or whose  
23 vision with corrective glasses is so defective as to prevent  
24 the performance of ordinary duties or tasks for which eyesight  
25 is essential. The Illinois Department shall define blindness in  
26 terms of ophthalmic measurements or ocular conditions. For  
27 purposes of this Act, an Illinois Disabled Person  
28 Identification Card issued pursuant to The Illinois  
29 Identification Card Act, indicating that the person thereon  
30 named has a Type 3 disability shall be evidence that such  
31 person is a blind person within the meaning of this Section;  
32 however, such a card shall not qualify such person for aid as a

1 blind person under this Act, and eligibility for aid as a blind  
2 person shall be determined as provided in this Act.

3 "Disabled person" means a person age 18 or over who has a  
4 physical or mental impairment, disease, or loss which is of a  
5 permanent nature and which substantially impairs his ability to  
6 perform labor or services or to engage in useful occupations  
7 for which he is qualified, as determined by rule and regulation  
8 of the Illinois Department. For purposes of this Act, an  
9 Illinois Disabled Person Identification Card issued pursuant  
10 to The Illinois Identification Card Act, indicating that the  
11 person thereon named has a Type 1 or 2, Class 2 disability  
12 shall be evidence that such person is a disabled person under  
13 this Section; however, such a card shall not qualify such  
14 person for aid as a disabled person under this Act, and  
15 eligibility for aid as a disabled person shall be determined as  
16 provided in this Act. If federal law or regulation permit or  
17 require the inclusion of blind or disabled persons whose  
18 blindness or disability is not of the degree specified in the  
19 foregoing definitions, or permit or require the inclusion of  
20 disabled persons under age 18 or aged persons under age 65, the  
21 Illinois Department, upon written approval of the Governor, may  
22 provide by rule that all aged, blind or disabled persons toward  
23 whose aid federal funds are available be eligible for  
24 assistance under this Article as is given to those who meet the  
25 foregoing definitions of blind person and disabled person or  
26 aged person.

27 (Source: P.A. 89-21, eff. 7-1-95.)

28 (305 ILCS 5/3-5) (from Ch. 23, par. 3-5)

29 Sec. 3-5. Amount of aid. The amount and nature of financial  
30 aid granted to or in behalf of aged, blind, or disabled persons  
31 shall be determined in accordance with the standards, grant  
32 amounts, rules and regulations of the Illinois Department. Due  
33 regard shall be given to the requirements and conditions  
34 existing in each case, and to the amount of property owned and  
35 the income, money contributions, and other support, and

1 resources received or obtainable by the person, from whatever  
2 source. However, the amount and nature of any financial aid is  
3 not affected by the payment of any grant under the "Senior  
4 Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief and  
5 Pharmaceutical Assistance Act" or any distributions or items of  
6 income described under subparagraph (X) of paragraph (2) of  
7 subsection (a) of Section 203 of the Illinois Income Tax Act.  
8 The aid shall be sufficient, when added to all other income,  
9 money contributions and support, to provide the person with a  
10 grant in the amount established by Department regulation for  
11 such a person, based upon standards providing a livelihood  
12 compatible with health and well-being. Financial aid under this  
13 Article granted to persons who have been found ineligible for  
14 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) due to expiration of the  
15 period of eligibility for refugees and asylees pursuant to 8  
16 U.S.C. 1612(a)(2) shall not exceed \$500 per month.

17 (Source: P.A. 91-676, eff. 12-23-99.)

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
19 becoming law.