

1 AN ACT in relation to 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 adding Section 5-24 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/5-24 new)

7 Sec. 5-24. Pediatric asthma initiative. During the 2004  
8 fiscal year, the Department of Public Aid shall begin an  
9 initiative to prevent and treat pediatric asthma. Under the  
10 initiative, the Department shall contract with health care  
11 providers for programs for the prevention and treatment of  
12 pediatric asthma through physician and patient education and  
13 case management. The Department shall contract with providers  
14 of health care services that the Department has determined  
15 are qualified, under criteria developed in rules, to deliver  
16 the proposed program model, providing care consistent with  
17 the 1997 guidelines on asthma from the National Institutes of  
18 Health. The Department shall enter into these contracts in  
19 the county or counties that have the highest volume or  
20 highest rate, compared to national averages, of  
21 hospitalization or mortality, or both, from pediatric asthma  
22 according to criteria specified by the Department in rules  
23 and as resources permit, provided that these criteria must  
24 specify, at a minimum, that a grant or grants shall be made  
25 each year in counties exceeding 3,000,000 in population.

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
27 becoming law.