

1 AN ACT concerning economic development.

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 is
6 amended by adding Section 605-302 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-302 new)

8 Sec. 605-302. Critical occupations and skill sets. Subject
9 to appropriation, the Department shall conduct a study to
10 identify current and projected shortages in critical
11 occupations and specific skill sets within Illinois businesses
12 and industries and shall devise strategies to alleviate any
13 identified shortages. All State agencies shall cooperate with
14 the Department in conducting the study. The study may build
15 upon previous efforts by the Department, including studies
16 conducted under its Critical Skills Shortage Initiative, which
17 brought together private-sector employers and economic
18 development entities as well as workforce, educational, and
19 public-sector representatives to identify growth industries,
20 industry skills shortages, and demand occupations, to
21 determine root causes for the shortages, and to develop
22 solutions to fill the skills gaps and worker shortages. The
23 Department shall report the results of its study and its

1 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly no
2 later than February 1, 2009.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law.