

AN ACT concerning finance.

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

Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is amended by adding Section 605-416 as follows:

(20 ILCS 605/605-416 new)

Sec. 605-416. Loans to qualified ex-offenders.

(a) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity may establish an ex-offender business ownership grant and loan program. Funding for this program shall come from the Ex-Offender Fund. The Department shall provide grants to organizations and entities that work with ex-offenders and facilitate the reentry of ex-offenders into society. Organizations wishing to participate in the program must present an application to the Department in order to receive funding.

(b) Funding distributed from the Ex-Offender Fund may be used only for the following purposes:

(1) For the awarding of grants to organizations and entities to provide low interest loans to ex-offenders so that these individuals may start and operate their own businesses that have a positive impact on society. The

maximum amount of a loan funded by a grant under this Section that an ex-offender may receive is \$5,000.

(2) For the awarding of grants to entities or organizations assisting ex-offenders, so that individual ex-offenders may develop business plans to start up their own businesses. These grants are to be used for the sole purpose of acquiring a business plan developed by a credible source. In order to receive these grants, qualified ex-offenders must submit an application and provide 50% of the cost to develop the business plan.

(3) For the administration costs of the program.

(c) For purposes of this Section, "qualified ex-offender" means any person who:

(1) is an eligible offender, as defined under Section 5-5.5-5 of the Unified Code of Corrections;

(2) was sentenced to a period of incarceration in an Illinois adult correctional center; and

(3) presents an application and a professional business plan to the organization or entity that is making the loan.

Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding Section 5.719 as follows:

(30 ILCS 105/5.719 new)

Sec. 5.719. The Ex-Offender Fund.

Public Act 096-0656

HB0436 Enrolled

LRB096 07997 RCE 18101 b

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2010.