



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3541

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Lawrence "Larry" Walsh, Jr.

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 730/5-40

Amends the Energy Transition Act. Provides that the Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program shall recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship training relevant to clean energy apprenticeships in the construction and building trades and that the Program shall meet certain requirements regarding applicant placements (rather than requiring each Climate Works Hub that receives funding from the Energy Transition Assistance Fund to perform certain actions).

LRB104 11392 HLH 21480 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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

4 Section 5. The Energy Transition Act is amended by  
5 changing Section 5-40 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 730/5-40)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on September 15, 2045)

8 Sec. 5-40. Illinois Climate Works Preapprenticeship  
9 Program.

10 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall  
11 develop, and through Regional Administrators administer, the  
12 Illinois Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program. The goal of  
13 the Illinois Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program is to  
14 create a network of hubs throughout the State that will  
15 recruit, prescreen, and provide preapprenticeship skills  
16 training, for which participants may attend free of charge and  
17 receive a stipend, to create a qualified, diverse pipeline of  
18 workers who are prepared for careers in the construction and  
19 building trades and clean energy jobs opportunities therein.  
20 Upon completion of the Illinois Climate Works  
21 Preapprenticeship Program, the candidates will be connected to  
22 and prepared to successfully complete an apprenticeship  
23 program.

1 (b) Each Climate Works Hub that receives funding from the  
2 Energy Transition Assistance Fund shall provide an annual  
3 report to the Illinois Works Review Panel by April 1 of each  
4 calendar year. The annual report shall include the following  
5 information:

6 (1) a description of the Climate Works Hub's  
7 recruitment, screening, and training efforts, including a  
8 description of training related to construction and  
9 building trades opportunities in clean energy jobs;

10 (2) the number of individuals who apply to,  
11 participate in, and complete the Climate Works Hub's  
12 program, broken down by race, gender, age, and veteran  
13 status;

14 (3) the number of the individuals referenced in  
15 paragraph (2) of this subsection who are initially  
16 accepted and placed into apprenticeship programs in the  
17 construction and building trades; and

18 (4) the number of individuals referenced in paragraph  
19 (2) of this subsection who remain in apprenticeship  
20 programs in the construction and building trades or have  
21 become journeymen one calendar year after their placement,  
22 as referenced in paragraph (3) of this subsection.

23 (c) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall provide  
24 funding to 3 Climate Works Hubs throughout the State,  
25 including one to the Illinois Department of Transportation  
26 Region 1, one to the Illinois Department of Transportation

1 Regions 2 and 3, and one to the Illinois Department of  
2 Transportation Regions 4 and 5. An eligible organization may  
3 serve as the designated Climate Works Hub for all 5 regions.  
4 Climate Works Hubs shall be awarded grants in multi-year  
5 increments not to exceed 36 months. Each grant shall come with  
6 a one year initial term, with the Department renewing each  
7 year for 2 additional years unless the grantee either declines  
8 to continue or fails to meet reasonable performance measures  
9 that consider apprenticeship programs timeframes. The  
10 Department may take into account experience and performance as  
11 a previous grantee of the Climate Works Hub as part of the  
12 selection criteria for subsequent years.

13 (d) The Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program shall  
14 recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship training  
15 relevant to clean energy apprenticeships in the construction  
16 and building trades and shall meet all of the following:

17 (1) The Program shall dedicate at least one-third of  
18 Program placements to applicants who reside in a  
19 geographic area that is (i) an R3 Area, as defined in  
20 Section 10-40 of the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, (ii)  
21 an environmental justice community, as defined in the  
22 Illinois Power Agency Act, and (iii) impacted by economic  
23 and environmental challenges, excluding any racial or  
24 ethnic indicators used by the Agency unless and until the  
25 constitutional basis for the inclusion of the factors in  
26 determining Program admissions is established. Among

1 applicants that satisfy these criteria, preference shall  
2 be given to applicants who face barriers to employment,  
3 including low educational attainment, prior involvement  
4 with the criminal justice system, and language barriers,  
5 and applicants that are graduates of or currently enrolled  
6 in the foster care system.

7 (2) The Program shall dedicate at least two-thirds of  
8 Program placements to applicants that satisfy the criteria  
9 in paragraph (1) or who reside in a geographic area that is  
10 (i) an R3 Area, as defined in Section 10-40 of the Cannabis  
11 Regulation and Tax Act, or an environmental justice  
12 community, as defined in the Illinois Power Agency Act,  
13 and (ii) that is impacted by economic and environmental  
14 challenges, excluding any racial or ethnic indicators used  
15 by the Agency unless and until the constitutional basis  
16 for the inclusion of the factors in determining Program  
17 admissions is established. Among applicants that satisfy  
18 these criteria, preference shall be given to applicants  
19 who face barriers to employment, including low educational  
20 attainment, prior involvement with the criminal legal  
21 system, and language barriers, and applicants that are  
22 graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care  
23 system; and

24 (3) The Program shall prioritize the remaining Program  
25 placements for the following:

26 (i) applicants who are displaced energy workers,

1 as defined in the Energy Community Reinvestment Act;

2 (ii) persons who face barriers to employment,  
3 including low educational attainment, prior  
4 involvement with the criminal justice system, and  
5 language barriers; and

6 (iii) applicants who are graduates of or currently  
7 enrolled in the foster care system, regardless of the  
8 applicant's area of residence. ~~Each Climate Works Hub~~  
9 ~~that receives funding from the Energy Transition~~  
10 ~~Assistance Fund shall:~~

11 ~~(1) recruit, prescreen, and provide preapprenticeship~~  
12 ~~training to equity investment eligible persons;~~

13 ~~(2) provide training information related to~~  
14 ~~opportunities and certifications relevant to clean energy~~  
15 ~~jobs in the construction and building trades; and~~

16 ~~(3) provide preapprentices with stipends they receive~~  
17 ~~that may vary depending on the occupation the individual~~  
18 ~~is training for.~~

19  
20 (d-5) Priority shall be given to Climate Works Hubs that  
21 have an agreement with North American Building Trades Unions  
22 (NABTU) to utilize the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum or  
23 successor curriculums.

24 (e) Funding for the Program is subject to appropriation  
25 from the Energy Transition Assistance Fund.

26 (f) The Department shall adopt any rules deemed necessary

1 to implement this Section.

2 (Source: P.A. 102-662, eff. 9-15-21; 102-1031, eff. 5-27-22;

3 102-1123, eff. 1-27-23.)