

1 AN ACT in relation to public aid.

2 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that there has been
3 no general adjustment in the grant amounts under Article IV
4 of the Illinois Public Aid Code to reflect changes in the
5 cost of subsistence needs since 1989. The grant amounts have
6 fallen far behind the cost of subsistence needs. The
7 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program under Article
8 IV of the Illinois Public Aid Code is now a time-limited
9 program with vigorous work activity requirements.
10 Participants in the program need to be able to meet their
11 subsistence needs while they pursue work activities and
12 endeavor to exit the program as quickly as possible.
13 Inability to meet subsistence needs interferes with these
14 work efforts and delays exit from the program, and, among
15 families with difficult problems inhibiting the ability to
16 work, such as disabilities within the family, the inability
17 to meet subsistence needs also threatens their health and
18 well-being; therefore,

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

21 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
22 changing Section 12-4.11 as follows:

23 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.11) (from Ch. 23, par. 12-4.11)

24 Sec. 12-4.11. Grant amounts. The Department, with due
25 regard for and subject to budgetary limitations, shall
26 establish grant amounts for each of the programs, by
27 regulation. The grant amounts may vary by program, size of
28 assistance unit and geographic area. Effective July 1, 2001,
29 the Department shall increase the grant amounts under Article
30 IV of this Code by no less than 15% above the amounts in
31 effect on June 30, 2001. Effective July 1, 2002 and each

1 July 1 thereafter, the Department shall increase the grant
 2 amounts under Article IV of this Code by no less than the
 3 increase in the "Employment Cost Index, Wages and Salaries,
 4 By Occupation and Industry Groups: State and Local Government
 5 Workers: Public Administration" as published by the Bureau of
 6 Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor for the
 7 calendar year immediately preceding the year in which the
 8 July 1 grant amount increase takes effect. On January 1,
 9 2004, and on January 1 every 2 years thereafter, the
 10 Department shall issue a report to the Governor and the
 11 General Assembly on the adequacy of grant amounts under
 12 Article IV to meet the subsistence needs of the families
 13 participating in that program.

14 Aid payments shall not be reduced except: (1) for changes
 15 in the cost of items included in the grant amounts, or (2)
 16 for changes in the expenses of the recipient, or (3) for
 17 changes in the income or resources available to the
 18 recipient, or (4) for changes in grants resulting from
 19 adoption of a consolidated grant amount.

20 In fixing standards to govern payments or reimbursements
 21 for funeral and burial expenses, the Department shall take
 22 into account the services essential to a dignified, low-cost
 23 funeral and burial, including reasonable amounts that may be
 24 necessary for burial space and cemetery charges, and any
 25 applicable taxes or other required governmental fees or
 26 charges.

27 Nothing contained in this Section or in any other Section
 28 of this Code shall be construed to prohibit the Illinois
 29 Department (1) from consolidating existing standards on the
 30 basis of any standards which are or were in effect on, or
 31 subsequent to July 1, 1969, or (2) from employing any
 32 consolidated standards in determining need for public aid and
 33 the amount of money payment or grant for individual
 34 recipients or recipient families.

1 (Source: P.A. 90-17, eff. 7-1-97; 90-326, eff. 8-8-97;
2 90-372, eff. 7-1-98; 90-655, eff. 7-30-98; 91-24, eff.
3 7-1-99.)

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on
5 July 1, 2001.