

1 AN ACT in relation to developmental disabilities.

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

4 Section 5. The Developmental Disability and Mental  
5 Disability Services Act is amended by adding Article 10 as  
6 follows:

7 (405 ILCS 80/Art. 10 heading new)

8 Article 10.

9 Workforce Task Force for Persons with Disabilities

10 (405 ILCS 80/10-5 new)

11 Sec. 10-5. Task force created. A workforce task force  
12 for persons with disabilities is created, consisting of 16  
13 members. The task force shall consist of the following  
14 members:

15 (1) Two members of the Senate, appointed one each by  
16 the President of the Senate and the Minority Leader of  
17 the Senate.

18 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives,  
19 appointed one each by the Speaker of the House of  
20 Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of  
21 Representatives.

22 (3) Three members appointed by the Secretary of  
23 Human Services or his or her designee, one each  
24 representing the Office of Developmental Disabilities,  
25 the Office of Rehabilitation Services, and the Office of  
26 Mental Health within the Department.

27 (4) One member representing the Illinois Council on  
28 Developmental Disabilities, selected by the Council.

29 (5) One member appointed by the Director of Aging or  
30 his or her designee.

1           (6) One member appointed by the Director of  
2           Employment Security or his or her designee.

3           (7) One member appointed by the Director of Commerce  
4           and Community Affairs or his or her designee.

5           (8) Two members representing private businesses,  
6           one of the 2 representing the Business Leaders Network,  
7           appointed by the Secretary of Human Services.

8           (9) One member representing the Illinois Network of  
9           Centers for Independent Living, selected by the Network.

10          (10) One member representing the Coalition of  
11          Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois, selected by the  
12          Coalition.

13          (11) One member representing People First of  
14          Illinois, selected by that organization.

15          (405 ILCS 80/10-10 new)  
16          Sec. 10-10. Task force's duties.

17          (a) The task force shall review, assess, and develop  
18          recommendations and an implementation plan to address the  
19          following issues:

20               (1) Identification of State-specific barriers that  
21               prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying the same  
22               employment level as persons without those disabilities.

23               (2) Identification of strategies that create parity  
24               in the unemployment rate between persons with  
25               disabilities and persons without those disabilities.

26               (3) Identification of issues that impede the  
27               training, hiring, and retention of personal care  
28               assistants to help persons with disabilities remain in  
29               their own homes and obtain employment both in and outside  
30               their homes.

31               (4) Identification of models or strategies that  
32               foster shared arrangements between persons with  
33               disabilities in terms of personal care assistance and

1 shared housing.

2 (b) In identifying the issues set forth in subsection  
3 (a), especially concerning the retention of personal care  
4 assistants and direct care workers for individuals with  
5 developmental disabilities, the task force shall employ  
6 methods that include a review of other states' practices and  
7 experiences in developing financial and non-financial  
8 incentives that would reduce Illinois' high employment  
9 turnover rate of personal assistants for persons with  
10 disabilities. These incentives may include, but need not be  
11 limited to, forgiveness of student loans, implementation of a  
12 benefits program, and the offering of community-college-level  
13 courses.

14 (c) The task force shall report its findings and  
15 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly 6  
16 months after the date that the task force is formed.

17 (405 ILCS 80/10-15 new)

18 Sec. 10-15. High school students; transition study.

19 (a) The task force shall do the following:

20 (1) Conduct a longitudinal study of the outcomes  
21 that secondary education programs have for students with  
22 disabilities after exiting the secondary school  
23 environment.

24 (2) Identify gaps in services that may exist for  
25 students with disabilities transitioning out of their  
26 secondary education.

27 (3) Identify strategies to narrow any gaps in  
28 services that may exist.

29 (b) The task force shall designate the staff who are to  
30 conduct the study under subdivision (a)(1).

31 Article 99. Effective Date.

1           Section 99-99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
2    becoming law.