

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by  
5 adding Section 9-14 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/9-14 new)

7 Sec. 9-14. Small business grant program. Subject to  
8 appropriation, the Department of Commerce and Economic  
9 Opportunity may establish a small business grant program for  
10 public aid recipients who are interested in developing a new  
11 start-up business. Grant applicants must submit an initial  
12 business plan or proposal to the Department of Commerce and  
13 Economic Opportunity that clearly articulates the viability of  
14 the new start-up business and how the grant money will be used  
15 to develop the business. The Department of Commerce and  
16 Economic Opportunity shall use such application materials to  
17 determine an applicant's eligibility under the program, the  
18 grant amount to be awarded, if applicable, and the number of  
19 grants an eligible applicant will receive under the program. If  
20 an applicant is determined by the Department of Commerce and  
21 Economic Opportunity to be eligible for a small business grant,  
22 the applicant must submit to the Department of Commerce and  
23 Economic Opportunity every year that he or she participates in

1 the program or applies for a new grant an updated business plan  
2 or proposal that demonstrates the continued viability or  
3 progress of the new start-up business. The Department of  
4 Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall adopt any rules  
5 necessary to implement this provision, including rules on the  
6 minimum and maximum grant amounts awarded under the program,  
7 the number of grants an applicant may apply for or receive  
8 during a specified period of time, and application  
9 requirements.