



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB3634

Introduced 2/17/2023, by Rep. Dave Vella

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 1505/1505-225 new

Amends the Department of Labor Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Department of Labor shall establish a Preferred Worker Program to assist workers whose on-the-job injuries result in a disability that may be a substantial obstacle to employment by providing assistance to eligible injured workers. Provides that the Department shall award grants to eligible injured workers and employers of eligible injured workers to cover specified expenses relating to their employment. Provides that the Department may adopt any rules necessary to administer the program.

LRB103 27278 SPS 53649 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 Department of Labor Law of the Civil
5 Administrative Code of Illinois is amended by adding Section
6 1505-225 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 1505/1505-225 new)

8 Sec. 1505-225. Preferred Worker Program.

9 (a) As used in this Section, "eligible injured worker"
10 means an employee who sustained a compensable work injury in
11 this State, resulting in an inability to return to their
12 pre-injury position, and completed the vocational
13 rehabilitation process.

14 (b) The Department of Labor shall establish a Preferred
15 Worker Program to assist workers whose on-the-job injuries
16 result in a disability that may be a substantial obstacle to
17 employment by providing assistance to eligible injured
18 workers.

19 (c) The Department shall award grants to eligible injured
20 workers as follows:

21 (1) a grant, not to exceed \$250, to purchase
22 appropriate clothing for interviews, uniforms, travel
23 expenses, or other items needed for employment;

1 (2) a grant, not to exceed \$2,000, to cover expenses
2 relating to testing for certification, licensure, or other
3 testing requirements for employment, including physical
4 examinations or membership fees required for employment;

5 (3) a grant, not to exceed \$2,500, to purchase tools,
6 equipment, or starter sets required for employment;

7 (4) a grant, in an amount to be determined by the
8 Department, to cover moving expenses if the eligible
9 injured workers has relocated for work and the distance of
10 the eligible injured worker's new residence is greater
11 than or equal than 35 miles from the eligible injured
12 worker's previous residence; and

13 (5) a grant, in an amount to be determined by the
14 Department, to pay for lodging, meals, and travel expenses
15 related to job training.

16 (d) The Department shall award grants to the employers of
17 eligible injured workers as follows:

18 (1) a grant, in an amount to be determined by the
19 Department, to perform an on-site job analysis or
20 ergonomic assessment related to an eligible injured
21 worker; and

22 (2) a grant, in an amount to be determined by the
23 Department, to cover costs for modifications necessary for
24 employment or retraining of an eligible injured worker.

25 (e) The Department may adopt any rules necessary to
26 administer the provisions of this Section.