



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5606

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Rep. Kam Buckner

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 605/605-1032 new

Amends the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Law. Creates the Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment. Provides that the Office shall assist minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and other underserved communities and constituencies through targeted programs, resources, and outreach and promotional activities. Provides that the Office may engage in or conduct promoting and conducting outreach efforts to ensure access to State and federal funding opportunities, and assisting minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, and businesses owned by persons with disabilities and other underserved communities and constituencies in applying for and receiving loan funds in the State. Provides that the Office may engage in other specified workshops, public forums, and other functions that assist minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and other underserved communities and constituencies.

LRB103 38460 MXP 68596 b

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

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

4 Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic  
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois  
6 is amended by adding Section 605-1032 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-1032 new)

8 Sec. 605-1032. Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "Office" means the Office of Economic Equity and  
11 Empowerment.

12 (b) The Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment is  
13 hereby created within the Department. The Office shall assist  
14 minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses,  
15 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with  
16 disabilities, and other underserved communities and  
17 constituencies through targeted programs, resources, and  
18 outreach and promotional activities. The Office may engage in  
19 or conduct the following activities:

20 (1) promoting and conducting outreach efforts to  
21 ensure access to State and federal funding opportunities,  
22 and assisting minority-owned businesses, women-owned  
23 businesses, veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by

1 persons with disabilities, and other underserved  
2 communities and constituencies in applying for and  
3 receiving loan funds in the State;

4 (2) providing and hosting workshops and public forums  
5 and engaging in outreach efforts for minority-owned  
6 businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned  
7 businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities,  
8 and other underserved communities and constituencies to  
9 encourage participation in programs under the Business  
10 Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with  
11 Disabilities Act, and assisting those businesses in  
12 becoming designated under that Act and under similar  
13 certification programs;

14 (3) providing and hosting workshops and public forums  
15 and engaging in outreach efforts that assist and educate  
16 minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses,  
17 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with  
18 disabilities, and other underserved communities and  
19 constituencies on the process of applying for and becoming  
20 certified to apply for State grant funds under the Grant  
21 Accountability and Transparency Act;

22 (4) providing and hosting workshops and public forums  
23 and engaging in outreach efforts that assist and educate  
24 aspiring and existing minority-owned businesses,  
25 women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses,  
26 businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and other

1 underserved communities and constituencies with  
2 understanding concepts such as, but not limited to,  
3 business formation, business planning, capital access, and  
4 marketing a business;

5 (5) administering programs established by the  
6 Department or the General Assembly to provide grants to  
7 minority-owned businesses, woman-owned businesses,  
8 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with  
9 disabilities, and other underserved communities and  
10 constituencies;

11 (6) coordinating assistance for minority-owned  
12 businesses, woman-owned businesses, veteran-owned  
13 businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities,  
14 and other underserved communities and constituencies with  
15 other State agencies;

16 (7) providing staff, administration, and related  
17 support required to administer this Section; and

18 (8) establishing applications, notifications,  
19 contracts, and other forms and procedures, and adopting  
20 rules deemed necessary and appropriate.

21 (c) The Office may use vendors or contract work to carry  
22 out the purposes of this Act.