

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The Public Community College Act is amended by
5 adding Section 2-24 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 805/2-24 new)

7 Sec. 2-24. We Want to Learn English Initiative.

8 (a) Subject to appropriation and Section 7 of the Board of
9 Higher Education Act, the State Board may establish and
10 administer a We Want to Learn English Initiative to provide
11 resources for immigrants and refugees in this State to learn
12 English in order to move towards becoming full members of
13 American society.

14 (b) Each fiscal year, the State Board may include, as a
15 separate line item, in its budget proposal \$25,000,000 in
16 funding for the We Want to Learn English Initiative, to be
17 disbursed by the State Board. The State Board may decide to
18 disburse no less than half of the funds appropriated for this
19 Initiative each fiscal year to community-based, not-for-profit
20 organizations, immigrant social service organizations,
21 faith-based organizations, and on-site job training programs
22 so that immigrants and refugees can learn English where they
23 live, work, pray, and socialize and where their children go to

1 school.

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