

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 changing Section 11-22 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/11-22) (from Ch. 23, par. 11-22)

7 Sec. 11-22. Charge upon claims and causes of action for  
8 injuries. The Illinois Department shall have a charge upon all  
9 claims, demands and causes of action for injuries to an  
10 applicant for or recipient of (i) financial aid under Articles  
11 III, IV, and V, (ii) health care benefits provided under the  
12 Covering ALL KIDS Health Insurance Act, or (iii) health care  
13 benefits provided under the Veterans' Health Insurance Program  
14 Act or the Veterans' Health Insurance Program Act of 2008 for  
15 the total amount of medical assistance provided the recipient  
16 from the time of injury to the date of recovery upon such  
17 claim, demand or cause of action. In addition, if the applicant  
18 or recipient was employable, as defined by the Department, at  
19 the time of the injury, the Department shall also have a charge  
20 upon any such claims, demands and causes of action for the  
21 total amount of aid provided to the recipient and his  
22 dependents, including all cash assistance and medical  
23 assistance only to the extent includable in the claimant's

1 action, from the time of injury to the date of recovery upon  
2 such claim, demand or cause of action. Any definition of  
3 "employable" adopted by the Department shall apply only to  
4 persons above the age of compulsory school attendance.

5 If the injured person was employable at the time of the  
6 injury and is provided aid under Articles III, IV, or V and any  
7 dependent or member of his family is provided aid under Article  
8 VI, or vice versa, both the Illinois Department and the local  
9 governmental unit shall have a charge upon such claims, demands  
10 and causes of action for the aid provided to the injured person  
11 and any dependent member of his family, including all cash  
12 assistance, medical assistance and food stamps, from the time  
13 of the injury to the date of recovery.

14 "Recipient", as used herein, means (i) in the case of  
15 financial aid provided under this Code, the grantee of record  
16 and any persons whose needs are included in the financial aid  
17 provided to the grantee of record or otherwise met by grants  
18 under the appropriate Article of this Code for which such  
19 person is eligible, (ii) in the case of health care benefits  
20 provided under the Covering ALL KIDS Health Insurance Act, the  
21 child to whom those benefits are provided, and (iii) in the  
22 case of health care benefits provided under the Veterans'  
23 Health Insurance Program Act or the Veterans' Health Insurance  
24 Program Act of 2008, the veteran to whom benefits are provided.

25 In each case, the notice shall be served by certified mail  
26 or registered mail, or by facsimile or electronic messaging

1 when requested by the party or parties against whom the  
2 applicant or recipient has a claim, demand, or cause of action,  
3 upon the party or parties against whom the applicant or  
4 recipient has a claim, demand or cause of action. The notice  
5 shall claim the charge and describe the interest the Illinois  
6 Department, the local governmental unit, or the county, has in  
7 the claim, demand, or cause of action. The charge shall attach  
8 to any verdict or judgment entered and to any money or property  
9 which may be recovered on account of such claim, demand, cause  
10 of action or suit from and after the time of the service of the  
11 notice.

12 On petition filed by the Illinois Department, or by the  
13 local governmental unit or county if either is claiming a  
14 charge, or by the recipient, or by the defendant, the court, on  
15 written notice to all interested parties, may adjudicate the  
16 rights of the parties and enforce the charge. The court may  
17 approve the settlement of any claim, demand or cause of action  
18 either before or after a verdict, and nothing in this Section  
19 shall be construed as requiring the actual trial or final  
20 adjudication of any claim, demand or cause of action upon which  
21 the Illinois Department, the local governmental unit or county  
22 has charge. The court may determine what portion of the  
23 recovery shall be paid to the injured person and what portion  
24 shall be paid to the Illinois Department, the local  
25 governmental unit or county having a charge against the  
26 recovery. In making this determination, the court shall conduct

1 an evidentiary hearing and shall consider competent evidence  
2 pertaining to the following matters:

3 (1) the amount of the charge sought to be enforced  
4 against the recovery when expressed as a percentage of the  
5 gross amount of the recovery; the amount of the charge  
6 sought to be enforced against the recovery when expressed  
7 as a percentage of the amount obtained by subtracting from  
8 the gross amount of the recovery the total attorney's fees  
9 and other costs incurred by the recipient incident to the  
10 recovery; and whether the Department, unit of local  
11 government or county seeking to enforce the charge against  
12 the recovery should as a matter of fairness and equity bear  
13 its proportionate share of the fees and costs incurred to  
14 generate the recovery from which the charge is sought to be  
15 satisfied;

16 (2) the amount, if any, of the attorney's fees and  
17 other costs incurred by the recipient incident to the  
18 recovery and paid by the recipient up to the time of  
19 recovery, and the amount of such fees and costs remaining  
20 unpaid at the time of recovery;

21 (3) the total hospital, doctor and other medical  
22 expenses incurred for care and treatment of the injury to  
23 the date of recovery therefor, the portion of such expenses  
24 theretofore paid by the recipient, by insurance provided by  
25 the recipient, and by the Department, unit of local  
26 government and county seeking to enforce a charge against

1 the recovery, and the amount of such previously incurred  
2 expenses which remain unpaid at the time of recovery and by  
3 whom such incurred, unpaid expenses are to be paid;

4 (4) whether the recovery represents less than  
5 substantially full recompense for the injury and the  
6 hospital, doctor and other medical expenses incurred to the  
7 date of recovery for the care and treatment of the injury,  
8 so that reduction of the charge sought to be enforced  
9 against the recovery would not likely result in a double  
10 recovery or unjust enrichment to the recipient;

11 (5) the age of the recipient and of persons dependent  
12 for support upon the recipient, the nature and permanency  
13 of the recipient's injuries as they affect not only the  
14 future employability and education of the recipient but  
15 also the reasonably necessary and foreseeable future  
16 material, maintenance, medical, rehabilitative and  
17 training needs of the recipient, the cost of such  
18 reasonably necessary and foreseeable future needs, and the  
19 resources available to meet such needs and pay such costs;

20 (6) the realistic ability of the recipient to repay in  
21 whole or in part the charge sought to be enforced against  
22 the recovery when judged in light of the factors enumerated  
23 above.

24 The burden of producing evidence sufficient to support the  
25 exercise by the court of its discretion to reduce the amount of  
26 a proven charge sought to be enforced against the recovery

1 shall rest with the party seeking such reduction.

2 The court may reduce and apportion the Illinois  
3 Department's lien proportionate to the recovery of the  
4 claimant. The court may consider the nature and extent of the  
5 injury, economic and noneconomic loss, settlement offers,  
6 comparative negligence as it applies to the case at hand,  
7 hospital costs, physician costs, and all other appropriate  
8 costs. The Illinois Department shall pay its pro rata share of  
9 the attorney fees based on the Illinois Department's lien as it  
10 compares to the total settlement agreed upon. This Section  
11 shall not affect the priority of an attorney's lien under the  
12 Attorneys Lien Act. The charges of the Illinois Department  
13 described in this Section, however, shall take priority over  
14 all other liens and charges existing under the laws of the  
15 State of Illinois with the exception of the attorney's lien  
16 under said statute.

17 Whenever the Department or any unit of local government has  
18 a statutory charge under this Section against a recovery for  
19 damages incurred by a recipient because of its advancement of  
20 any assistance, such charge shall not be satisfied out of any  
21 recovery until the attorney's claim for fees is satisfied,  
22 irrespective of whether or not an action based on recipient's  
23 claim has been filed in court.

24 This Section shall be inapplicable to any claim, demand or  
25 cause of action arising under (a) the Workers' Compensation Act  
26 or the predecessor Workers' Compensation Act of June 28, 1913,

1 (b) the Workers' Occupational Diseases Act or the predecessor  
2 Workers' Occupational Diseases Act of March 16, 1936; and (c)  
3 the Wrongful Death Act.

4 (Source: P.A. 94-693, eff. 7-1-06; 94-816, eff. 5-30-06;  
5 95-755, eff. 7-25-08.)

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
7 becoming law.