



Laborers' International Union of North America Midwest Regional Office

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Legislative Update

December 13, 2019

Governor Signs Apprenticeship Requirement for State Projects Over \$500K

Pre-Apprenticeship Training Also Part of \$45 Billion Capital Bill Package

This week, among labor leaders and tradesmen and women at the Chicagoland Laborers' District Council Training and Apprenticeship Center, **Governor Pritzker (D)** signed **Senate Bill 177**, sponsored by **Rep. Will Davis (D-E. Hazel Crest)** and **Sen. Napoleon Harris (D-Harvey)**. The legislation clarifies several provisions that were part of the Capital Bill package and reflects the high priority the General Assembly and Governor place on improving opportunities for careers in the building trades for women and minorities.

Components of Senate Bill 177 include:

- The **Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative**, which sets a goal that 10% of hours worked on State-funded projects over \$500,000 be performed by apprentices in each Prevailing Wage classification. This means each trade on a project has an individual 10% apprenticeship goal, and if a trade has multiple classifications on a project, that goal would apply to each classification. Contractors unable to meet this goal may request a waiver if certain conditions are met.
- The **Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program**, which is a \$25 million program to provide grants to non-profit community-based organizations to recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship training to individuals. The goal of the Program is that, upon completion of one of these pre-apprenticeship programs, an individual would then have the skills necessary to increase their chances of being accepted into an apprenticeship with one of the building trades.
 - o The legislation also creates the **Illinois Works Review Panel**, which will determine which community-based organizations are awarded grants; evaluate the success of the program; and review ideas to improve minority participation in building trades apprenticeships.
 - o Related to the Pre-Apprenticeship grant program is the **Illinois Works Bid Credit Program**. Similar to the Illinois Tollway's Earned Credit Program, the Illinois Works Bid Credit Program will allow contractors who employ graduates of Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Programs on State projects to earn bid credits toward future bids on State projects. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is responsible for establishing the rate at which bid credits will be earned, based on hours worked on qualifying jobs by the graduates.
- The **Bureau of Apprenticeship Programs**, created within the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL), whose staff shall work to identify barriers to minority participation in building trades apprenticeship programs, and make recommendations to remove those barriers.

Other components of the Capital Bill package and related legislation include reporting requirements, such as:

- A requirement that IDOL issue an annual report on the number of apprentices employed on State-funded projects over \$500,000, and the hours they worked, including data broken down by trade, race, gender and veteran status; and
- A requirement in **Senate Bill 203**, sponsored by **Sen. Kimberly Lightford (D-Maywood)** and Rep. Will Davis, that IDOL collect and publish data each year on the number of people employed and hours worked on all public works projects statewide, by county and by workers' home zip code.