

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 Human Services Act is amended  
5 by changing Section 10-25 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1305/10-25)

7 Sec. 10-25. Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition  
8 Program.

9 (a) The Department shall participate in the Women, Infants  
10 and Children Nutrition program of the federal government to  
11 the maximum extent permitted by the federal appropriation and  
12 allocation to the State of Illinois. In order to efficiently  
13 process electronically issued WIC benefits, the Department may  
14 use an account held outside of the state treasury for the  
15 deposit and issuance of WIC benefits. Other appropriations and  
16 funds from any public or private source in addition to federal  
17 funds may be used by the Department for the purpose of maximum  
18 participation in the WIC nutrition program.

19 (b) The Department shall maintain a drug abuse education  
20 program for participants in the Women, Infants and Children  
21 Nutrition Program. The program shall include but need not be  
22 limited to (1) the provision of information concerning the  
23 dangers of drug abuse and (2) the referral of participants who

1 are suspected drug abusers to drug abuse clinics, treatment  
2 programs, counselors or other drug abuse treatment providers.

3 (c) The Department shall cooperate with the Department of  
4 Public Health for purposes of the smoking cessation program  
5 for participants in the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition  
6 Program maintained by the Department of Public Health under  
7 Section 2310-435 of the Department of Public Health Powers and  
8 Duties Law (20 ILCS 2310/2310-435).

9 (d) The Department may contract with any bank as defined  
10 by the Illinois Banking Act to redeem bank drafts issued by the  
11 Department under the United States Department of Agriculture  
12 Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and  
13 Children (WIC). Any bank with which the Department has entered  
14 into a contract to redeem bank drafts may receive, pursuant to  
15 an appropriation to the Department, an initial advance and  
16 periodic payment of funds for the Women, Infants and Children  
17 Program in amounts determined by the Secretary.  
18 Notwithstanding any other law, such funds shall be retained in  
19 a separate account by the bank. Any interest earned by monies  
20 in such account shall accrue to the USDA Women, Infants and  
21 Children Fund and shall be used exclusively for the redemption  
22 of bank drafts issued by the Department. WIC program food  
23 funds received by the bank from the Department shall be used  
24 exclusively for the redemption of bank drafts. The bank shall  
25 not use such food funds, or interest accrued thereon, for any  
26 other purpose including, but not limited to, reimbursement of

1 administrative expenses or payments of administrative fees due  
2 the bank pursuant to its contract or contracts with the  
3 Department.

4 Such initial and periodic payments by the Department to  
5 the bank shall be effected, pursuant to an appropriation, in  
6 an amount needed for the redemption of bank drafts issued by  
7 the Department under the United States Department of  
8 Agriculture Special Supplemental Food Program for Women,  
9 Infants and Children in any initial or succeeding period. The  
10 State Comptroller shall, upon presentation by the Secretary of  
11 adequate certification of funds needed for redemption of bank  
12 drafts, promptly draw a warrant payable to the bank for  
13 deposit to the separate account of the bank. Such  
14 certification may be in magnetic tape or computer output form,  
15 indicating the amount of the total payment made by the bank for  
16 the redemption of bank drafts from funds provided to the bank  
17 under this Section.

18 The separate account of the bank established under this  
19 Section, any payments to that account, and the use of such  
20 account and funds shall be subject to (1) audit by the  
21 Department or a private contractor authorized by the  
22 Department to conduct audits, including but not limited to  
23 such audits as may be required by State law, (2) audit by the  
24 federal government or a private contractor authorized by the  
25 federal government, and (3) post audit pursuant to the  
26 Illinois State Auditing Act.

1 (e) The Department may include a program of lactation  
2 support services as part of the benefits and services provided  
3 for pregnant and breast feeding participants in the Women,  
4 Infants and Children Nutrition Program. The program may  
5 include payment for breast pumps, breast shields, or any  
6 supply deemed essential for the successful maintenance of  
7 lactation, as well as lactation specialists who are registered  
8 nurses, licensed dietitians, or persons who have successfully  
9 completed a lactation management training program.

10 (f) The Department shall coordinate the operation of the  
11 Women, Infants and Children program with the Medicaid program  
12 by interagency agreement whereby each program provides  
13 information about the services offered by the other to  
14 applicants for services.

15 (g) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall, by  
16 rule, expand the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program across  
17 the State through local WIC agency grants and contracting  
18 local farmers to ensure access to fresh, locally grown fruits  
19 and vegetables. The Department shall determine which counties  
20 can participate based on funds available and whether there is  
21 a sufficient number of farmers willing to accept WIC Farmers'  
22 Market Nutrition Program benefits. The Department shall adopt  
23 rules to implement this subsection.

24 (Source: P.A. 103-688, eff. 1-1-25.)