

SELF-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE ACT

HB3126 | SB1979

Empowering entrepreneurship:

Some newly unemployed individuals aspire to become entrepreneurs, transforming difficult layoffs into opportunities. Several states have enacted programs that allow unemployed individuals the option to receive benefits while working full-time to launch a business. Illinois should adopt a Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) program to empower recently unemployed individuals with entrepreneurial spirit.

SEA programs allow eligible unemployed individuals to receive unemployment benefits while they work full-time to launch a business. Participants are exempt from traditional job search requirements, enabling them to focus on entrepreneurship. Only individuals who launch their businesses well before their unemployment benefits expire will be eligible to participate.

This legislation will foster economic development across our state and solidify Illinois as an innovation hub by giving business owners the stability they need to succeed.