

PRESS RELEASE

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Ford Passes Legislation to Require Broad Strategy to Increase African American Employment in State Government

CHICAGO – African Americans seeking employment with the state of Illinois may soon find greater opportunities thanks to legislation sponsored and passed by state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) to create a comprehensive state hiring plan for African Americans.

“Increasing opportunities and providing resources for local residents to better their own lives is the best way to serve the people,” Ford said. “This legislation will offer countless opportunities to deserving men and women.”

Ford’s Senate Bill 3531 requires the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS), the human resources department of the state of Illinois, to establish an 11-member advisory committee to help oversee the recruitment of African-American job seekers. This committee shall examine the prevalence of African Americans employed by the state, barriers faced by African Americans seeking state employment, and potential incentives that could be used to increase such employment. CMS will use this information to implement a strategy that will increase employment of African Americans in Illinois. All state agencies will be required to implement strategies and programs in accordance with this program.

Green Acres Consulting Group, a supporter of this legislation, applauds the efforts of members of the Legislative Black Caucus and Representative Ford’s leadership for addressing this issue.

“Homes, preventative healthcare, and building generational wealth can now become a reality for many African American families,” said William Burch, a consultant at Green Acres. “Today, landmark legislation was passed, and it truly is a great day.”

“In the Austin community, the voices of many echo loud for resources, opportunities and jobs,” Ford said. “Now that state government has taken the lead on promoting diversity and equality in the workplace, I now challenge the private sector to model this behavior and increase their efforts to hire more minorities, specifically African Americans.”

The legislation currently awaits the signature of Governor Quinn.

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