

# News...



*From State Representative La Shawn K. Ford*

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

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## **Ford Passes Measure to Address High Unemployment Rate for Young Adults**

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill.** – Driven by strong concerns over a staggering 92 percent unemployment rate among African-American males from 16-19 years old in the City of Chicago, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, passed legislation out of the House recently creating the Commission on Young Adult Employment, which would study ways Illinois can boost employment opportunities for the young adults.

“Students graduating from trade schools, colleges, and university need a fair shot at finding a good job after they have completed their education,” Ford said. “It’s my hope that, by bringing together leaders from the public and private sectors, this commission will find real solutions to reduce the growing number of youths without work.”

House Bill 1490 creates the Commission on Young Adult Employment, which will be tasked with identifying issues preventing young adults from finding work, and will consult with leaders from the public sector and business communities, before making recommendations to the General Assembly. The commission will be made up of 17 members who will serve without compensation and be chaired by an appointee from Chicago State University. Commission members will submit an annual report to the General Assembly on November 30 of each year until the commission ends on Jan. 1, 2019.

“Chicago State University is proud to partner with Rep. Ford and his fellow lawmakers to address one of the most pressing and important social issues we face today,” CSU Provost and Senior Vice President Dr. Angela Henderson said. “At CSU, we take great pride in being a beacon of civic engagement, where decision makers can gather and debate new strategies to tackle tough issues like the high unemployment rates among African American males. We particularly look forward to an opportunity to highlight the work already being done at our African American Male Resource Center and how those efforts can be a guide to finding permanent solutions to this very real challenge.”

House Bill 1490 now awaits consideration before the Senate.

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