



# Press Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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## **Ford Salutes Gov. Quinn for Signing Legislation to Require a Broad Strategy to Increase African American Employment in State Government**

**CHICAGO, IL** – African Americans seeking employment with the state of Illinois may soon find more opportunities, thanks to legislation signed by Governor Patrick Quinn and originally sponsored by state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago).

“I salute Governor Quinn for acting on this issue of social justice as we work to increase opportunities and provide resources for local residents to better their own lives,” said Ford. The unemployment rate of African Americans in Illinois tops 16%, almost twice that of whites and 30% higher than Hispanics. “Providing job opportunities for those most in need is one of the best ways to improve our communities and make them more vibrant,” Ford said.

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, the barriers faced by African Americans seeking state employment, and the 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. “Owning their own home and building generational wealth can now become a reality for many African American families,” said William Burch, a consultant at Green Acres.

“Now that state government has taken the lead on promoting diversity and equality in the workplace, I now challenge the private sector to replicate these actions and increase their efforts to hire more minorities, specifically African Americans,” said Ford.

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