



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH - GOVERNOR

NEWS

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Gov. Blagojevich signs legislation providing additional incentives for small businesses that create and retain Illinois jobs

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod R. Blagojevich signed legislation today making it easier for the state to attract and retain jobs by providing additional incentives for growing small businesses that are the backbone of the Illinois economy. HB 4285 amends the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Tax Credit Act so that companies with 100 or fewer employees, and a viable relocation option outside of the state, may now qualify for the credit. The applicant's project must involve an investment of at least \$1 million and employ at least five new, full-time employees within Illinois. Manufacturing-related activities, product warehousing or distribution, research and development, or agricultural processing companies can qualify for this EDGE expansion.

“Illinois is a fantastic place for small businesses looking to expand or for a new home. We have first-class infrastructure, an efficient and effective workforce and a variety of state economic development programs all geared towards creating more jobs and growing our economy. Expanding the EDGE program to include these emerging companies is another important incentive that will help Illinois reach its vast economic potential,” Governor Blagojevich said.

Administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the EDGE program is a powerful tool for the retention and creation of good jobs in Illinois. For qualifying companies, EDGE levels the playing field between Illinois and neighboring states when competing for companies looking to expand or to relocate. EDGE allows a firm to reduce the costs of doing business in Illinois when compared with similar costs in other states. The amount of the credit is calculated on a case-by-case basis and determined by the number of jobs created and retained and the qualifying company's payroll and state income tax liability. The credits are available to a company for up to a total of 10 years for each project. Expansion or relocation projects involving retail, restaurants and professional services are not eligible for EDGE.

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HB 4285 was sponsored in the House by Rep. Robin Kelly (D-Hazelcrest), Rep. David Miller (D-Dolton), Rep. Jim Sacia (R-Freeport), Rep. William Davis (D-Harvey) and Rep. William Delgado (D-Chicago). Senate sponsors include Senator Debbie DeFrancesco Halvorson (D-Chicago Heights) and Senator Barack Obama (D-Chicago).

"For areas like Cook County's South Suburbs and other border communities that have not yet experienced an economic renaissance, this important expansion of the EDGE program will allow small businesses to grow and remain in Illinois. These critical investments will directly benefit the local economies that need them the most," Representative Robin Kelly (D-Hazelcrest) said.

"Ensuring that our economy continues to expand and continues to create good jobs is one of our top priorities. Expanding the EDGE program will help Illinois remain economically competitive with our neighboring states, while helping small businesses succeed in communities that will welcome this economic boost," Senator Debbie DeFrancesco Halvorson (D-Chicago Heights) said.

"Small businesses throughout Illinois play an incredibly important role in our state's economy, which is why expanding the EDGE program to include companies with 100 or fewer employees is yet another crucial way for us to create and retain more good jobs throughout Illinois," DCEO Director Jack Lavin said.

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