



News Release

Pat Quinn, Governor

Jay Rowell, Director

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Anti-Fraud Efforts Protect Illinois Economy *New Enforcement Tools Recover More than \$20 Million* **Saves Businesses Money to Help Job Creation**

CHICAGO – More than \$20 million has been recovered from individuals cheating the state by wrongfully collecting unemployment insurance benefits while gainfully employed, the Illinois Department of Employment Security announced today. Recovering the money and fighting fraud is part of Gov. Pat Quinn’s plan to safeguard taxpayer dollars and put people to work.

“Recovering this money helps businesses and workers because it reduces the cost of doing business in Illinois, which improves the climate for job creation and strengthens the Illinois economy,” IDES Director Jay Rowell said. “These new anti-fraud efforts are more examples of progress that people can see.”

This is the first year IDES has been able to garnish federal tax returns of individuals who collected benefits knowing they were ineligible because they were gainfully employed. In less than one month, Illinois has recovered \$15.8 million through federal garnishment. Additionally, IDES collected \$3.6 million after simply informing individuals that their tax return would be garnished. Furthermore, new anti-fraud efforts will save an additional \$40 million each year. Through federal garnishment, Illinois seeks to recover \$158 million from individuals who refused to enter into a payment plan. Illinois also garnished more than \$1.1 million from state tax returns, and has used this tool since at least 2007.

The programs are part of Gov. Quinn’s bi-partisan reforms enacted last year that are expected to save businesses more than \$400 million, provide 16 percent unemployment insurance tax reductions for companies that did not lay off workers and punish those that defraud the unemployment insurance program.

Unemployment insurance benefits are funded through business contributions. These temporary dollars most often are spent for essentials at the local grocery, gas station and clothing store, thereby supporting the local economy. Every \$1 in unemployment insurance benefits generates nearly \$2 in economic activity.

The IDES supports economic stability by administering unemployment benefits, collecting business contributions to fund those benefits, connecting employers with qualified job seekers, and providing economic information to assist career planning and economic development. It does so through nearly 60 offices across the state, including the Illinois workNet Centers.

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