

1 AN ACT concerning civil rights.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Civil Rights Act of 2003 is amended  
5 by changing Section 5 as follows:

6 (740 ILCS 23/5)

7 Sec. 5. Discrimination prohibited.

8 (a) No unit of State, county, or local government in  
9 Illinois shall:

10 (1) exclude a person from participation in, deny a  
11 person the benefits of, or subject a person to  
12 discrimination under any program or activity on the grounds  
13 of that person's race, color, or national origin; or

14 (2) utilize criteria or methods of administration that  
15 have the effect of subjecting individuals to  
16 discrimination because of their race, color, or national  
17 origin.

18 (b) Any party aggrieved by conduct that violates subsection  
19 (a) may bring a civil lawsuit, in a federal district court or  
20 State circuit court, against the offending unit of government.

21 Any State claim brought in federal district court shall be a  
22 supplemental claim to a federal claim. This lawsuit must be

23 brought not later than 2 years after the violation of  
24 subsection (a). If the court finds that a violation of

25 paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) has occurred, the court

26 may award to the plaintiff actual ~~and punitive~~ damages ~~and if~~

27 ~~the court finds that a violation of paragraph (2) of subsection~~

28 ~~(a) has occurred, the court may award to the plaintiff actual~~

29 ~~damages.~~ The court, as it deems appropriate, may grant as

30 relief any permanent or preliminary negative or mandatory

31 injunction, temporary restraining order, or other order,

32 ~~including an order enjoining the defendant from engaging in the~~

1 ~~violation of subsection (a) or mandating affirmative action.~~

2 (c) Upon motion, a court shall award reasonable attorneys'  
3 fees and costs, including expert witness fees and other  
4 litigation expenses, to a plaintiff who is a prevailing party  
5 in any action brought:

6 (1) pursuant to subsection (b); or

7 (2) to enforce a right arising under the Illinois  
8 Constitution.

9 In awarding reasonable attorneys' fees, the court shall  
10 consider the degree to which the relief obtained relates to the  
11 relief sought.

12 (d) For the purpose of this Act, the term "prevailing  
13 party" includes any party:

14 (1) who obtains some of his or her requested relief  
15 through a judicial judgment in his or her favor;

16 (2) who obtains some of his or her requested relief  
17 through any settlement agreement approved by the court; or

18 (3) whose pursuit of a non-frivolous claim was a  
19 catalyst for a unilateral change in position by the  
20 opposing party relative to the relief sought.

21 (Source: P.A. 93-425, eff. 1-1-04.)