



Sen. Michael W. Frerichs

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2074

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 2074 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Commission on the Eradication of Poverty Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative Findings. It is the policy of this
7 State to eradicate poverty in Illinois.

8 Freedom from poverty is a human right. The preamble to the
9 Constitution of the State of Illinois states that the
10 elimination of poverty is one of the fundamental goals of our
11 State government. The Illinois Human Rights Act states that the
12 public policy of the State of Illinois is "to promote the
13 public health, welfare and safety by protecting the interest of
14 all people in Illinois in maintaining personal dignity, in
15 realizing their full productive capacities, and in furthering
16 their interests, rights and privileges as citizens of this

1 State". The State of Illinois is a party to all international
2 human rights treaties signed and ratified by the United States.

3 Illinois is one of the wealthiest states in the United
4 States, yet it has one of the highest rates of poverty and
5 extreme poverty in the Midwest. The poverty level in 2007 was
6 \$20,620 or less per year for a family of 4 and \$10,310 or less
7 per year for a family of 4 in extreme poverty. In 2006 just
8 under 1,400,000 people residing in Illinois were living in
9 poverty and over 687,000 people residing in Illinois were
10 living in extreme poverty. There are people living in extreme
11 poverty in every Illinois county.

12 Full participation in civic life cannot be achieved without
13 those things that protect and preserve human dignity and make
14 for a healthy life, including adequate nutrition and housing,
15 meaningful work, safe communities, health care, and education.

16 Illinois has no comprehensive plan for the elimination of
17 extreme poverty.

18 Section 10. Commission on the Eradication of Poverty. The
19 Commission on the Eradication of Poverty is created. The
20 purpose of the Commission is to comprehensively address poverty
21 in Illinois consistent with international human rights
22 standards. The initial goal of the Commission is to develop a
23 poverty eradication strategic plan to reduce extreme poverty in
24 Illinois by 50% or more by 2015. In developing the overall
25 strategic plan, and in working toward the goal of reducing

1 extreme poverty in Illinois by at least 50% by 2015, the
2 Commission shall address, at a minimum, all of the following:

3 (1) Access to safe, decent and affordable housing.

4 (2) Access to adequate food and nutrition.

5 (3) Access to affordable and quality health care.

6 (4) Equal access to quality education and training.

7 (5) Dependable and affordable transportation.

8 (6) Access to quality and affordable child care.

9 (7) Opportunities to engage in meaningful and sustainable
10 work that pays a living wage.

11 (8) The availability of adequate income supports.

12 The strategic plan shall include specific policy and fiscal
13 recommendations and a timeline for each stage of implementation
14 for every specific recommendation. For each specific
15 recommendation, the Commission shall identify in measurable
16 terms the actual or potential impact of each recommendation.
17 The Commission may review and may make comments and
18 recommendations on existing or proposed programs, policies,
19 administrative rules, and statutes that have an impact on
20 poverty in Illinois and, in particular, people living in
21 extreme poverty.

22 Section 15. Members; terms. The Commission on the
23 Eradication of Poverty shall be composed of no more than 26
24 voting members including 2 members of the Illinois House of
25 Representatives, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and

1 one appointed by the House Minority Leader; 2 members of the
2 Illinois Senate, one appointed by the Senate President and one
3 appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; one representative of
4 the Office of the Governor appointed by the Governor; one
5 representative of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor
6 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and 20 public members, 4
7 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, 4 of whom shall be
8 appointed by the Speaker of the House, 4 of whom shall be
9 appointed by the House Minority Leader, 4 of whom shall be
10 appointed by the Senate President, and 4 of whom shall be
11 appointed by the Senate Minority Leader. It shall be determined
12 by lot who will appoint which public members of the Commission.
13 The public members shall include a representative of a
14 service-based human rights organization; 2 representatives
15 from anti-poverty organizations, including one that focuses on
16 rural poverty; 2 individuals who have experienced extreme
17 poverty; a representative of an organization that advocates for
18 health care access, affordability and availability; a
19 representative of an organization that advocates for persons
20 with mental illness; a representative of an organization that
21 advocates for children and youth; a representative of an
22 organization that advocates for quality and equality in
23 education; a representative of an organization that advocates
24 for people who are homeless; a representative of a statewide
25 anti-hunger organization; a person with a disability; a
26 representative of an organization that advocates for persons

1 with disabilities; a representative of an organization that
2 advocates for immigrants; a representative of a statewide
3 faith-based organization that provides direct social services
4 in Illinois; a representative of an organization that advocates
5 for economic security for women; a representative of an
6 organization that advocates for older adults; a representative
7 of a labor organization that represents primarily low and
8 middle-income wage earners; a representative of a municipal or
9 county government; and a representative of township
10 government. The appointed members shall reflect the racial,
11 gender, and geographic diversity of the State and shall include
12 representation from regions of the State experiencing the
13 highest rates of extreme poverty.

14 The following officials shall serve as ex-officio
15 non-voting members: the Secretary of Human Services or his or
16 her designee; the Director of Corrections or his or her
17 designee; the Director of Healthcare and Family Services or his
18 or her designee; the Director of Human Rights or his or her
19 designee; the Director of Children and Family Services or his
20 or her designee; the Director of Commerce and Economic
21 Opportunity or his or her designee; the State Superintendent of
22 Education or his or her designee; the Director of Aging or his
23 or her designee; the Director of Public Health or his or her
24 designee; and the Director of Employment Security or his or her
25 designee. The State Workforce Investment Board, the
26 African-American Family Commission, and the Latino Family

1 Commission shall each designate a liaison to serve ex-officio
2 on the Commission.

3 Members shall serve without compensation, but, subject to
4 the availability of funds, public members may be reimbursed for
5 reasonable and necessary travel expenses connected to
6 Commission business.

7 Commission members shall be appointed within 60 days after
8 the effective date of this Act. The Commission shall hold its
9 initial meeting within 30 days after at least 50% of the voting
10 members have been appointed.

11 The representative of the Office of the Governor and the
12 representative of a service-based human rights organization
13 shall serve as co-chairs of the Commission.

14 Section 20. Meetings; reports. The Commission shall meet at
15 least quarterly. In addition, it may hold up to 4 public
16 hearings to assist in the development of the strategic plan.
17 The Commission shall also consider written comments for the
18 purpose of developing the strategic plan.

19 The Commission shall issue an interim report on its
20 activities and recommendations to the constitutional officers
21 and to the General Assembly on or before March 1, 2009. The
22 strategic plan shall be adopted by the Commission not later
23 than January 1, 2010 and sent to the constitutional officers
24 and to the General Assembly. Following the adoption of the
25 strategic plan, the Commission shall continue to meet and issue

1 annual reports by March 1st of each year on the implementation
2 of the strategic plan.

3 The Commission shall hold at least one public hearing prior
4 to the issuance of each annual report.

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
6 becoming law.".