

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

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

4 Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by adding  
5 Article XXV as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/Art. XXV heading new)

7 ARTICLE XXV. STATE NAVIGATOR PROGRAM LAW

8 (220 ILCS 5/25-101 new)

9 Sec. 25-101. Short title. This Article may be cited as the  
10 State Navigator Program Law. References in this Article to  
11 "this Act" mean this Article.

12 (220 ILCS 5/25-102 new)

13 Sec. 25-102. Intent. The General Assembly finds that  
14 improving the energy efficiency of, and reducing the  
15 greenhouse gases from, residential buildings are critical to  
16 meeting the State's adopted climate goals in Public Act  
17 102-662.

18 The General Assembly recognizes that making information  
19 about energy efficiency and weatherization programs,  
20 electrification services, skilled contractors, and federal and  
21 State electrification incentives available to State residents

1 will assist the State in meeting its adopted climate goals in  
2 Public Act 102-662. Further, the General Assembly recognizes  
3 that establishing a comprehensive statewide navigator program  
4 is essential to ensuring equitable access to electrification  
5 and energy efficient services. This program requires the  
6 Administrator to help educate residents on how to combine  
7 local, State, federal, and utility services related to  
8 electrification, energy efficiency, and the reduction of  
9 energy burdens to maximize electrification and energy  
10 efficiency in this State.

11 (220 ILCS 5/25-103 new)

12 Sec. 25-103. Definitions. As used in this Article:

13 "Administrator" means an entity, including, but not  
14 limited to, a nonprofit corporation or community-based  
15 organization. "Administrator" does not include an energy  
16 utility.

17 "Customers" means residents, tenants, homeowners, and  
18 building owners.

19 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic  
20 Opportunity.

21 "Electrification services" includes energy audits,  
22 assistance converting to on-site renewable energy, electric  
23 load service center upgrades, new electric wiring, installing  
24 electric heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, cooking  
25 equipment, clothes dryers, and other electric appliance

1 replacement, financing, energy efficiency, weatherization,  
2 health and safety improvements, and any energy upgrade  
3 services and work.

4 "Equity investment eligible communities" has the meaning  
5 given to that term in Section 5-5 of the Energy Transition Act.

6 "Income-qualified households" means those whose annual  
7 incomes are at or below 80% of area median income.

8 "Navigator Working Group" means representatives appointed  
9 by the Department who represent members from either the  
10 electrician trades, construction industry, community  
11 organizations that work in energy burdened communities,  
12 community organizations who have experience with  
13 weatherization programs, members from equity investment  
14 eligible communities or the Illinois Commerce Commission or  
15 staff, electric utilities, and other stakeholders deemed  
16 necessary by the Administrator.

17 (220 ILCS 5/25-104 new)

18 Sec. 25-104. Creation of State navigator program.

19 (a) The Department may establish and oversee a statewide  
20 building energy upgrade navigator program. The purpose of the  
21 navigator program is to provide a statewide resource to assist  
22 building owners and building renters with accessing  
23 information about electrification services, energy efficiency  
24 services, programs, funding, and any other assistance that  
25 will result in aiding the State in meeting its adopted climate

1 goals in Public Act 102-662. This includes, but is not limited  
2 to, utility programs, the weatherization assistance program,  
3 solar for all, federal funding and financing, and State and  
4 local funding and financing.

5 (b) The Department must coordinate and collaborate with  
6 the navigator working group on the design, administration, and  
7 implementation of the navigator program.

8 (c) The Department must ensure that all State residents  
9 have equitable access to the navigator program.

10 (d) The Department may consult with other programs,  
11 entities, and stakeholders as the Department determines to be  
12 appropriate on the design, administration, and implementation  
13 of the navigator program. The department must solicit public  
14 feedback on design and implementation decisions from  
15 stakeholders.

16 (e) Third-Party Administrator.

17 (1) The Department may contract out this program to  
18 the Administrator. Subject to the following requirements:

19 (A) The Administrator must be selected through a  
20 competitive process.

21 (B) The Administrator must have experience with  
22 running statewide programs related to energy  
23 efficiency, electrification services, or  
24 weatherization programs.

25 (C) The Administrator must have experience working  
26 with multifamily building owners and renters.

1           (D) The Administrator must have experience  
2           assisting people with low incomes or energy burdened  
3           households.

4           (E) The Administrator must have experience running  
5           programs in both urban and rural parts of the State,  
6           including covering a range of geographic and community  
7           diversity.

8           (2) If the Department decides to hire an  
9           Administrator, they must enter into a contract within a  
10          year of the effective date of this amendatory Act of the  
11          104th General Assembly.

12          (3) If the Department decides to hire an  
13          Administrator, the contract expires after 4 years. After 4  
14          years, the Department can renew the contract or select a  
15          different Administrator. If the Administrator is not  
16          meeting the requirements of the program and its  
17          participants, the contract may be terminated early, and a  
18          new Administrator may be hired.

19          (4) The Administrator shall have the same  
20          responsibilities as the Department in creating,  
21          overseeing, and implementing the programs in the navigator  
22          program.

23          (f) The Department or Administrator of the navigator  
24          program must:

25               (1) provide outreach to:

26                       (A) owner occupied and rental residences; and

1           (B) single-family and multifamily dwellings;

2           (2) provide coverage for all geographic regions in the  
3           State;

4           (3) create strategies to ensure that the navigator  
5           program prioritizes outreach in equity investment eligible  
6           communities;

7           (4) create a strategy for how the navigator program  
8           will equitably assist residents in accessing rebates and  
9           incentives in the federal Inflation Reduction Act;

10          (5) create a strategy for how the navigator program  
11          will assist customers in accessing State funding  
12          opportunities available to access electrification  
13          services;

14          (6) create a strategy to stack funding from all  
15          available incentives and tax rebates that may leverage  
16          existing State software where possible with the goal of  
17          creating a single interface for clients to access  
18          information about weatherization, energy efficiency, and  
19          electrification services;

20          (7) support the integrated implementation of all  
21          relevant clean building programs funded in the State  
22          budget, including, but not limited to:

23               (A) the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program;

24               and

25               (B) the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance  
26               Program; and

1           (8) maintain a recommended contractor list.

2           (220 ILCS 5/25-105 new)

3           Sec. 25-105. Education materials and outreach. The  
4 Department or Administrator shall:

5           (1) create educational materials, which must include:

6           (a) information about all relevant funds and  
7 financial assistance available from federal, State,  
8 local, and energy utility programs, including, but not  
9 limited to, incentives, rebates, tax credits, grants,  
10 and loan programs; and

11           (b) information for households on the economic,  
12 health, climate, and safety benefits of eligible  
13 retrofits.

14           (2) support and connect community-based organizations  
15 in their region to training programs in areas of  
16 electrification, energy efficiency, building envelope, and  
17 installation technical assistance, and other relevant  
18 areas; and

19           (3) ensure the education and outreach work is  
20 coordinated with other State energy efficiency,  
21 weatherization, electrification, and related programs and  
22 providers.

23           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
24 becoming law.