



Rep. Yolonda Morris

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10400HB5470ham002

LRB104 19493 HLH 36537 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5470

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 5470, AS AMENDED,
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the
4 following:

5 "Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic
6 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois
7 is amended by changing Sections 605-300, 605-465, 605-503,
8 605-913, 605-1007, and 605-1032 as follows:

9 (20 ILCS 605/605-300) (was 20 ILCS 605/46.2)

10 Sec. 605-300. Economic development plans. The Department
11 shall develop a strategic economic development plan for the
12 State by July 1, 2014. By no later than January 31 ~~July 1,~~
13 ~~2015, and by July 1 annually thereafter,~~ the Department shall
14 make modifications to the plan as modifications are warranted
15 by changes in economic conditions or by other factors,
16 including changes in policy. In addition to the annual

1 modification, the plan shall be reviewed and redeveloped in
2 full every 5 years. In the development of the annual economic
3 development plan, the Department shall consult with
4 representatives of the private sector, other State agencies,
5 academic institutions, local economic development
6 organizations, local governments, and not-for-profit
7 organizations. The annual economic development plan shall set
8 specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-sensitive
9 goals and shall include a focus on areas of high unemployment
10 or poverty.

11 The term "economic development" shall be construed broadly
12 by the Department and may include, but is not limited to, job
13 creation, job retention, tax base enhancements, development of
14 human capital, workforce productivity, critical
15 infrastructure, regional competitiveness, social inclusion,
16 standard of living, environmental sustainability, energy
17 independence, quality of life, the effective use of financial
18 incentives, the utilization of public private partnerships
19 where appropriate, and other metrics determined by the
20 Department.

21 The plan shall be based on relevant economic data, focus
22 on economic development as prescribed by this Section, and
23 emphasize strategies to retain and create jobs.

24 The plan shall identify and develop specific strategies
25 for utilizing the assets of regions within the State defined
26 as counties and municipalities or other political subdivisions

1 in close geographical proximity that share common economic
2 traits such as commuting zones, labor market areas, or other
3 economically integrated characteristics.

4 If the plan includes strategies that have a fiscal impact
5 on the Department or any other agency, the plan shall include a
6 detailed description of the estimated fiscal impact of such
7 strategies.

8 Prior to publishing the plan in its final form, the
9 Department shall allow for a reasonable time for public input.

10 The Department shall transmit copies of the economic
11 development plan to the Governor and the General Assembly no
12 later than July 1, 2014, and by July 1 annually thereafter. The
13 plan and its corresponding modifications shall be published
14 and made available to the public in both paper and electronic
15 media, on the Department's website, and by any other method
16 that the Department deems appropriate.

17 The Department shall annually submit legislation to
18 implement the strategic economic development plan or
19 modifications to the strategic economic development plan to
20 the Governor, the President and Minority Leader of the Senate,
21 and the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the House of
22 Representatives. The legislation shall be in the form of one
23 or more substantive bills drafted by the Legislative Reference
24 Bureau.

25 (Source: P.A. 104-435, eff. 11-21-25.)

1 (20 ILCS 605/605-465)

2 Sec. 605-465. Comprehensive website information.

3 (a) The Department's official website must contain a
4 comprehensive list of State, local, and federal economic
5 benefits available to businesses in each of the State's
6 counties and municipalities that the Department includes on
7 its website. In order to do so:

8 (1) The Department annually must request a summary of
9 available economic benefits from each of the State's
10 counties and municipalities that are linked to the
11 Department's website.

12 (2) The information obtained under paragraph (1) must
13 be published on the related web pages of the Department's
14 website.

15 (3) The Department's website shall also provide
16 information regarding available federal economic benefits
17 to the extent possible.

18 (b) The Department shall adopt rules for the
19 implementation of this Section.

20 (c) This Section is repealed on July 1, 2026.

21 (Source: P.A. 97-721, eff. 6-29-12.)

22 (20 ILCS 605/605-503)

23 Sec. 605-503. Entrepreneurship assistance centers.

24 (a) The Department shall establish and support, subject to
25 appropriation, entrepreneurship assistance centers, including

1 the issuance of grants, at career education agencies and
2 not-for-profit corporations, including, but not limited to,
3 local development corporations, chambers of commerce,
4 community-based business outreach centers, and other
5 community-based organizations. The purpose of the centers
6 shall be to train minority group members, women, individuals
7 with a disability, dislocated workers, veterans, and youth
8 entrepreneurs in the principles and practice of
9 entrepreneurship in order to prepare those persons to pursue
10 self-employment opportunities and to pursue a minority
11 business enterprise or a women-owned business enterprise. The
12 centers shall provide for training in all aspects of business
13 development and small business management as defined by the
14 Department.

15 (b) The Department shall establish criteria for selection
16 and designation of the centers which shall include, but not be
17 limited to:

18 (1) the level of support for the center from local
19 post-secondary education institutions, businesses, and
20 government;

21 (2) the level of financial assistance provided at the
22 local and federal level to support the operations of the
23 center;

24 (3) the applicant's understanding of program goals and
25 objectives articulated by the Department;

26 (4) the plans of the center to supplement State and

1 local funding through fees for services which may be based
2 on a sliding scale based on ability to pay;

3 (5) the need for and anticipated impact of the center
4 on the community in which it will function;

5 (6) the quality of the proposed work plan and staff of
6 the center; and

7 (7) the extent of economic distress in the area to be
8 served.

9 (c) Each center shall:

10 (1) be operated by a board of directors representing
11 community leaders in business, education, finance, and
12 government;

13 (2) be incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation;

14 (3) be located in an area accessible to eligible
15 clients;

16 (4) establish an advisory group of community business
17 experts, at least one-half of whom shall be representative
18 of the clientele to be served by the center, which shall
19 constitute a support network to provide counseling and
20 mentoring services to minority group members, women,
21 individuals with a disability, dislocated workers,
22 veterans, and youth entrepreneurs from the concept stage
23 of development through the first one to 2 years of
24 existence on a regular basis and as needed thereafter; and

25 (5) establish a referral system and linkages to
26 existing area small business assistance programs and

1 financing sources.

2 (d) Each entrepreneurship assistance center shall provide
3 needed services to eligible clients, including, but not
4 limited to: (i) orientation and screening of prospective
5 entrepreneurs; (ii) analysis of business concepts and
6 technical feasibility; (iii) market analysis; (iv) management
7 analysis and counseling; (v) business planning and financial
8 planning assistance; (vi) referrals to financial resources;
9 (vii) referrals to existing educational programs for training
10 in such areas as marketing, accounting, and other training
11 programs as may be necessary and available; and (viii)
12 referrals to business incubator facilities, when appropriate,
13 for the purpose of entering into agreements to access shared
14 support services.

15 (e) Applications for grants made under this Section shall
16 be made in the manner and on forms prescribed by the
17 Department. The application shall include, but shall not be
18 limited to:

19 (1) a description of the training programs available
20 within the geographic area to be served by the center to
21 which eligible clients may be referred;

22 (2) designation of a program director;

23 (3) plans for providing ongoing technical assistance
24 to program graduates, including linkages with providers of
25 other entrepreneurial assistance programs and with
26 providers of small business technical assistance and

1 services;

2 (4) a program budget, including matching funds,
3 in-kind and otherwise, to be provided by the applicant;
4 and

5 (5) any other requirements as deemed necessary by the
6 Department.

7 (f) Grants made under this Section shall be disbursed for
8 payment of the cost of services and expenses of the program
9 director, the instructors of the participating career
10 education agency or not-for-profit corporation, the faculty
11 and support personnel thereof, and any other person in the
12 service of providing instruction and counseling in furtherance
13 of the program.

14 (g) The Department shall monitor the performance of each
15 entrepreneurial assistance center and require quarterly
16 reports from each center at such time and in such a manner as
17 prescribed by the Department.

18 The Department shall also evaluate the entrepreneurial
19 assistance centers established under this Section and report
20 annually ~~beginning on January 1, 2023, and~~ on or before
21 January 31 ~~January 1~~ of each year ~~thereafter~~, the results of
22 the evaluation to the Governor and the General Assembly. The
23 report shall discuss the extent to which the centers serve
24 minority group members, women, individuals with a disability,
25 dislocated workers, veterans, and youth entrepreneurs; the
26 extent to which the training program is coordinated with other

1 assistance programs targeted to small and new businesses; the
2 ability of the program to leverage other sources of funding
3 and support; and the success of the program in aiding
4 entrepreneurs to start up new businesses, including the number
5 of new business start-ups resulting from the program. The
6 report shall recommend changes and improvements in the
7 training program and in the quality of supplemental technical
8 assistance offered to graduates of the training programs. The
9 report shall be made available to the public on the
10 Department's website. Between evaluation due dates, the
11 Department shall maintain the necessary records and data
12 required to satisfy the evaluation requirements.

13 (h) For purposes of this Section:

14 "Entrepreneurship assistance center" or "center" means the
15 business development centers or programs which provide
16 assistance to primarily minority group members, women,
17 individuals with a disability, dislocated workers, veterans,
18 and youth entrepreneurs under this Section.

19 "Disability" means, with respect to an individual: (i) a
20 physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or
21 more of the major life activities of an individual; (ii) a
22 record of such an impairment; or (iii) being regarded as
23 having an impairment.

24 "Minority business enterprise" has the same meaning as
25 provided for "minority-owned business" under Section 2 of the
26 Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with

1 Disabilities Act.

2 "Minority group member" has the same meaning as provided
3 for "minority person" under Section 2 of the Business
4 Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with
5 Disabilities Act.

6 "Women-owned business enterprise" has the same meaning as
7 provided for "women-owned business" under Section 2 of the
8 Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with
9 Disabilities Act.

10 "Veteran" means a person who served in and who has
11 received an honorable or general discharge from, the United
12 States Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marines, Coast
13 Guard, or reserves thereof, or who served in the Army National
14 Guard, Air National Guard, or Illinois National Guard.

15 "Youth entrepreneur" means a person who is between the
16 ages of 16 and 29 years old and is seeking community support to
17 start a business in Illinois.

18 (Source: P.A. 102-272, eff. 1-1-22; 102-821, eff. 1-1-23;
19 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-746, eff. 1-1-25.)

20 (20 ILCS 605/605-913)

21 Sec. 605-913. Clean Water Workforce Pipeline Program.

22 (a) The General Assembly finds the following:

23 (1) The fresh surface water and groundwater supply in
24 Illinois and Lake Michigan constitute vital natural
25 resources that require careful stewardship and protection

1 for future generations. Access to safe and clean drinking
2 water is the right of all Illinois residents.

3 (2) To adequately protect these resources and provide
4 safe and clean drinking water, substantial investment is
5 needed to replace lead components in drinking water
6 infrastructure, improve wastewater treatment, flood
7 control, and stormwater management, control aquatic
8 invasive species, implement green infrastructure
9 solutions, and implement other infrastructure solutions to
10 protect water quality.

11 (3) Implementing these clean water solutions will
12 require a skilled and trained workforce, and new
13 investments will demand additional workers with
14 specialized skills.

15 (4) Water infrastructure jobs have been shown to
16 provide living wages and contribute to Illinois' economy.

17 (5) Significant populations of Illinois residents,
18 including, but not limited to, residents of environmental
19 justice communities, economically and socially
20 disadvantaged communities, those returning from the
21 criminal justice system, foster care alumni, and in
22 particular women and transgender persons, are in need of
23 access to skilled living wage jobs like those in the water
24 infrastructure sector.

25 (6) Many of these residents are more likely to live in
26 communities with aging and inadequate clean water

1 infrastructure and suffer from threats to surface and
2 drinking water quality.

3 (7) The State can provide significant economic
4 opportunities to these residents and achieve greater
5 environmental and public health by investing in clean
6 water infrastructure.

7 (8) New training, recruitment, support, and placement
8 efforts are needed to connect these residents with career
9 opportunities in water infrastructure.

10 (9) The State must invest in both clean water
11 infrastructure and workforce development efforts in order
12 to achieve these goals.

13 (b) Subject to appropriation, ~~From appropriations made~~
14 ~~from the Build Illinois Bond Fund, Capital Development Fund,~~
15 ~~or General Revenue Fund or other funds as identified by the~~
16 ~~Department,~~ the Department may ~~shall~~ create a Clean Water
17 Workforce Pipeline Program to provide grants and other
18 financial assistance to prepare and support individuals for
19 careers in water infrastructure. All funding provided by the
20 Program under this Section shall be designed to encourage and
21 facilitate employment in projects funded through State capital
22 investment and provide participants a skill set to allow them
23 to work professionally in fields related to water
24 infrastructure.

25 Grants and other financial assistance may be made
26 available on a competitive annual basis to organizations that

1 demonstrate a capacity to recruit, support, train, and place
2 individuals in water infrastructure careers, including, but
3 not limited to, community organizations, educational
4 institutions, workforce investment boards, community action
5 agencies, and multi-craft labor organizations for new efforts
6 specifically focused on engaging residents of environmental
7 justice communities, economically and socially disadvantaged
8 communities, those returning from the criminal justice system,
9 foster care alumni, and in particular women and transgender
10 persons in these populations.

11 Grants and other financial assistance ~~may shall~~ be awarded
12 on a competitive and annual basis for the following
13 activities:

14 (1) identification of individuals for job training in
15 the water sector;

16 (2) counseling, preparation, skills training, and
17 other support to increase a candidate's likelihood of
18 success in a job training program and career;

19 (3) financial support for individuals in a water
20 sector job skills training program, support services, and
21 transportation assistance tied to training under this
22 Section;

23 (4) job placement services for individuals during and
24 after completion of water sector job skills training
25 programs; and

26 (5) financial, administrative, and management

1 assistance for organizations engaged in these activities.

2 (c) It shall be an annual goal of the Program to train and
3 place at least 300, or 25% of the number of annual jobs created
4 by State financed water infrastructure projects, whichever is
5 greater, of the following persons in water sector-related
6 apprenticeships annually: residents of environmental justice
7 communities; residents of economically and socially
8 disadvantaged communities; those returning from the criminal
9 justice system; foster care alumni; and, in particular, women
10 and transgender persons. In awarding and administering grants
11 under this Program, the Department shall strive to provide
12 assistance equitably throughout the State.

13 In order to encourage the employment of individuals
14 trained through the Program onto projects receiving State
15 financial assistance, the Department shall coordinate with the
16 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Finance
17 Authority, and other State agencies that provide financial
18 support for water infrastructure projects. These agencies
19 shall take steps to support attaining the training and
20 placement goals set forth in this subsection, using a list of
21 projects that receive State financial support. These agencies
22 may propose and adopt rules to facilitate the attainment of
23 this goal.

24 Using funds appropriated for the purposes of this Section,
25 the Department may select through a competitive bidding
26 process a Program Administrator to oversee the allocation of

1 funds and select organizations that receive funding.

2 The Department may require recipients of grants under this
3 Program to ~~Recipients of grants under the Program shall~~ report
4 ~~annually~~ to the Department, at intervals determined by the
5 Department, on the success of their efforts and their
6 contribution to reaching the goals of the Program provided in
7 this subsection. To the extent possible based on reporting
8 provided by recipients of grants under this Program, the ~~The~~
9 Department shall compile this information and periodically
10 ~~annually~~ report to the General Assembly on the Program,
11 including, but not limited to, the following information:

12 (1) progress toward the goals stated in this
13 subsection;

14 (2) any increase in the percentage of water industry
15 jobs in targeted populations;

16 (3) any increase in the rate of acceptance,
17 completion, or retention of water training programs among
18 targeted populations;

19 (4) any increase in the rate of employment, including
20 hours and annual income, measured against pre-Program
21 participant income; and

22 (5) any recommendations for future changes to optimize
23 the success of the Program.

24 (d) Within 180 days after an appropriation is made
25 available for the purposes of meeting the requirements of this
26 Act, ~~Within 90 days after January 1, 2020 (the effective date~~

1 ~~of Public Act 101-576)~~, the Department shall propose rules for
2 adoption a draft plan to implement this Section in accordance
3 with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act, including any
4 public comment required by the Joint Committee on
5 Administrative Rules. ~~for public comment. The Department shall~~
6 ~~allow a minimum of 60 days for public comment on the plan,~~
7 ~~including one or more public hearings, if requested. The~~
8 ~~Department shall finalize the plan within 180 days of January~~
9 ~~1, 2020 (the effective date of Public Act 101-576).~~

10 The Department may propose and adopt any rules necessary
11 for the implementation of the Program and to ensure compliance
12 with this Section.

13 (e) The Water Workforce Development Fund is created as a
14 special fund in the State treasury. The Fund shall receive
15 moneys appropriated for the purpose of this Section from the
16 Build Illinois Bond Fund, the Capital Development Fund, the
17 General Revenue Fund and any other funds. Moneys in the Fund
18 shall only be used to fund the Program and to assist and enable
19 implementation of clean water infrastructure capital
20 investments. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
21 the Water Workforce Development Fund is not subject to sweeps,
22 administrative charge-backs, or any other fiscal or budgetary
23 maneuver that would in any way transfer any amounts from the
24 Water Workforce Development Fund into any other fund of the
25 State.

26 (f) For purpose of this Section:

1 "Environmental justice community" has the meaning provided
2 in subsection (b) of Section 1-50 of the Illinois Power Agency
3 Act.

4 "Multi-craft labor organization" means a joint
5 labor-management apprenticeship program registered with and
6 approved by the United States Department of Labor's Office of
7 Apprenticeship or a labor organization that has an accredited
8 training program through the Higher Learning Commission or the
9 Illinois Community College Board.

10 "Organization" means a corporation, company, partnership,
11 association, society, order, labor organization, or individual
12 or aggregation of individuals.

13 (Source: P.A. 101-576, eff. 1-1-20; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21.)

14 (20 ILCS 605/605-1007)

15 Sec. 605-1007. New business permitting portal.

16 (a) By July 1, 2017, the Department shall, subject to
17 appropriation, create and maintain, in consultation with the
18 Department of Innovation and Technology, a website to help
19 persons wishing to create new businesses or relocate
20 businesses to Illinois. The Department shall consult with at
21 least one organization representing small businesses in this
22 State while creating the website.

23 (b) The website shall include:

24 (1) an estimate of license and permitting fees for
25 different businesses;

1 (2) State government application forms for business
2 licensing or registration;

3 (3) hyperlinks to websites of the responsible agency
4 or organization responsible for accepting the application;
5 and

6 (4) contact information for any local government
7 permitting agencies that may be relevant.

8 (c) The Department shall maintain an integrated digital
9 platform for business permitting and licensing information in
10 collaboration with all State agencies with regulatory
11 authority over business activities. Those agencies shall
12 provide, maintain, and update their required business forms,
13 instructions, and related content in the shared content
14 management system or other Department-designated platform on
15 an ongoing basis, in accordance with guidance issued by the
16 Department. Agencies shall also maintain current and accurate
17 business-related content on their primary public websites to
18 ensure efficient integration and curation of information into
19 the portal. ~~contact all agencies to obtain business forms and~~
20 ~~other information for this website. Those agencies shall~~
21 ~~respond to the Department before July 1, 2016.~~

22 (d) The website shall also include some mechanism for the
23 potential business owner to request more information from the
24 Department that may be helpful in starting the business,
25 including, but not limited to, State-based incentives that the
26 business owner may qualify for when starting or relocating a

1 business.

2 (e) The Department shall ensure that the portal is kept
3 current through continuous content management processes. State
4 agencies with regulatory authority over business activities
5 shall notify the Department or update the shared content
6 management system promptly when changes to forms, fees,
7 processes, requirements, or other relevant information occur,
8 and shall review and confirm the accuracy of its application
9 forms and related content at least annually. ~~update the~~
10 ~~website at least once a year before July 1. The Department~~
11 ~~shall request that other State agencies report any changes in~~
12 ~~applicable application forms to the Department by June 1 of~~
13 ~~every year after 2016.~~

14 (Source: P.A. 102-276, eff. 8-6-21.)

15 (20 ILCS 605/605-1032)

16 Sec. 605-1032. Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment.

17 (a) As used in this Section:

18 "Eligible not-for-profit corporation" means a
19 not-for-profit corporation, as defined in Section 101.80 of
20 the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, that
21 primarily serves minorities, women, veterans, or persons with
22 a disability.

23 "Office" means the Office of Economic Equity and
24 Empowerment.

25 (b) The Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment is

1 hereby created within the Department. The Office shall assist
2 minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses,
3 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with
4 disabilities, eligible not-for-profit corporations, and other
5 underserved communities and constituencies through targeted
6 programs, resources, and outreach and promotional activities.
7 The Office may engage in or conduct the following activities:

8 (1) promoting and conducting outreach efforts to
9 ensure access to State and federal funding opportunities,
10 and assisting minority-owned businesses, women-owned
11 businesses, veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by
12 persons with disabilities, eligible not-for-profit
13 corporations, and other underserved communities and
14 constituencies in applying for and receiving loan funds in
15 the State;

16 (2) providing and hosting workshops and public forums
17 and engaging in outreach efforts for minority-owned
18 businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned
19 businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities,
20 and other underserved communities and constituencies to
21 encourage participation in programs under the Business
22 Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with
23 Disabilities Act, and assisting those businesses in
24 becoming designated under that Act and under similar
25 certification programs;

26 (3) providing and hosting workshops and public forums

1 and engaging in outreach efforts that assist and educate
2 minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses,
3 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with
4 disabilities, eligible not-for-profit corporations, and
5 other underserved communities and constituencies on the
6 process of applying for and becoming certified to apply
7 for State grant funds under the Grant Accountability and
8 Transparency Act;

9 (4) providing and hosting workshops and public forums
10 and engaging in outreach efforts that assist and educate
11 aspiring and existing minority-owned businesses,
12 women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses,
13 businesses owned by persons with disabilities, eligible
14 not-for-profit corporations, and other underserved
15 communities and constituencies with understanding concepts
16 including, but not limited to, business formation and
17 not-for-profit incorporation, business planning, capital
18 access, and marketing a business or not-for-profit
19 corporation;

20 (5) administering programs established by the
21 Department or the General Assembly to provide grants to
22 minority-owned businesses, woman-owned businesses,
23 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with
24 disabilities, eligible not-for-profit corporations, and
25 other underserved communities and constituencies;

26 (6) coordinating assistance for minority-owned

1 businesses, woman-owned businesses, veteran-owned
2 businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities,
3 eligible not-for-profit corporations, and other
4 underserved communities and constituencies with other
5 State agencies;

6 (7) providing staff, administration, and related
7 support required to administer this Section; and

8 (8) establishing applications, notifications,
9 contracts, and other forms and procedures, and adopting
10 rules deemed necessary and appropriate.

11 (b-5) Subject to appropriation, the Office may administer
12 assistance that is focused on the revitalization and economic
13 stabilization of urban areas in the State. This assistance may
14 include programming, communication, and cross-coordination of
15 existing State programs designed to stimulate the economic
16 growth of under-resourced and underserved urban areas of the
17 State. Among other duties assigned by the Department, subject
18 to appropriation, the Office is authorized to do the
19 following:

20 (1) To the extent possible, to assist in the
21 coordination and communication of the activities of the
22 following units and programs of the Department and all
23 other present and future units and programs of the
24 Department that impact under-resourced or underserved
25 urban areas to the extent that they may assist urban areas
26 and urban economics:

1 (A) the Enterprise Zone Program;

2 (B) the Small Business Development Center Program;

3 (C) the Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance
4 Program (LIHEAP) and related energy assistance
5 programs;

6 (D) programs funded through Community Services
7 Block Grant funds;

8 (E) programs funded through Community Development
9 Block Grant funds;

10 (F) programs under the federal Workforce
11 Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) or related
12 workforce programs;

13 (G) programming related to the deployment of and
14 access to broadband and related technology and skills;

15 (H) programs that assist in the development of
16 businesses owned by individuals that are socially and
17 economically disadvantaged; and

18 (I) programs that assist in the development of
19 community infrastructure.

20 (2) To gather information concerning any State or
21 federal program that is designed to revitalize or assist
22 under-resourced or underserved urban areas in the State
23 and to provide this information to public and private
24 entities upon request.

25 (3) To use existing programs of the Department to
26 collaborate with regional economic development

1 professionals hired by the Department to promote and
2 assist in developing urban industrial parks and related
3 economic development.

4 (4) To promote economic parity throughout the State
5 and the autonomy of residents of the State by promoting
6 and assisting the development of the following as it
7 relates to services to and for under-resourced or
8 underserved urban areas of the State:

9 (A) small business development centers;

10 (B) youth employment;

11 (C) small business incubators;

12 (D) family resource centers;

13 (E) urban development banks;

14 (F) self-managed urban businesses; and

15 (G) plans for urban infrastructure projects.

16 (5) To, at its discretion and to the extent
17 practicable, seek guidance from urban public officials,
18 municipalities, metropolitan planning organizations,
19 nonprofits, and other entities to develop recommendations
20 to the Department on economic policies for urban areas and
21 planning models that will result in the revitalization of
22 the economy of under-resourced or underserved urban areas,
23 especially those urban areas where economically and
24 socially disadvantaged people live. These recommendations
25 may include, but are not limited to, recommendations in
26 the areas of:

- 1 (A) housing;
2 (B) scientific research;
3 (C) urban youth unemployment;
4 (D) business incubators and family resource
5 centers in urban areas; and
6 (E) alternative energy resource development in
7 urban areas as part of the Department's 5-year plan
8 for economic development.

9 (6) To encourage new enterprises to locate in urban
10 areas through educational promotions that emphasize the
11 opportunities in areas identified in the Department's
12 5-year economic development plan and by connecting those
13 enterprises to employees of the Department that specialize
14 in the solicitation of businesses in urban areas, and to
15 do other acts that, in the judgment of the Department, are
16 necessary and proper to foster and promote the economic
17 development and welfare of any urban area. Except as
18 otherwise specifically provided by law, the Department
19 shall have no power to require reports from or to regulate
20 any business.

21 (7) To accept grants, loans, or appropriations from
22 the federal government or the State, or any agency or
23 instrumentality thereof, to be used for any expenses
24 necessary to serve under-resourced or underserved urban
25 areas of the State, including, but not limited to,
26 scientific research, urban youth employment projects,

1 business incubators, urban infrastructure development,
2 alternative energy resource development, food deserts and
3 community food plots, community facilities needed in urban
4 areas, and any other purpose related to the revitalization
5 of and support for urban areas.

6 (c) The Office may use vendors or enter into contracts to
7 carry out the purposes of this Section.

8 (Source: P.A. 103-889, eff. 1-1-25.)

9 (20 ILCS 605/605-400 rep.)

10 Section 7. The Department of Commerce and Economic
11 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois
12 is amended by repealing Section 605-400.

13 Section 10. The Illinois Enterprise Zone Act is amended by
14 changing Section 12-9 as follows:

15 (20 ILCS 655/12-9) (from Ch. 67 1/2, par. 626)

16 Sec. 12-9. Report. On January 31 ~~January 1~~ of each year,
17 the Department shall report on its operation of the Fund for
18 the preceding fiscal year to the Governor and the General
19 Assembly. For any fiscal year in which no operations are
20 conducted by the Department because no funds were appropriated
21 to the Fund, the report outlined by this Section is not
22 required.

23 (Source: P.A. 102-108, eff. 1-1-22.)

1 Section 13. The Illinois Promotion Act is amended by
2 changing Section 4b as follows:

3 (20 ILCS 665/4b)

4 Sec. 4b. Coordinating Committee. There is created a
5 Coordinating Committee of State agencies involved with tourism
6 in the State of Illinois. The Committee shall consist of the
7 Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity or the
8 Director's designee, as chairman, the Lieutenant Governor or
9 the Lieutenant Governor's designee, the Secretary of
10 Transportation or his or her designee, and the head executive
11 officer or his or her designee of the following: the Lincoln
12 Presidential Library; the Department of Natural Resources; the
13 Department of Agriculture; the Illinois Arts Council; the
14 Illinois Community College Board; and the Board of Higher
15 Education. The Committee shall also include 4 members of the
16 Illinois General Assembly, one of whom shall be named by the
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be
18 named by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives,
19 one of whom ~~who~~ shall be named by the President of the Senate,
20 and one of whom shall be named by the Minority Leader of the
21 Senate. The Committee shall meet at least quarterly and at
22 other times as called by the chair. The Committee shall
23 coordinate the promotion and development of tourism activities
24 throughout State government.

1 (Source: P.A. 102-278, eff. 8-6-21.)

2 (20 ILCS 5075/Act rep.)

3 Section 20. The Opportunities for At-Risk Women Act is
4 repealed.

5 Section 23. The Illinois Council on Women and Girls Act is
6 amended by changing Section 15 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 5130/15)

8 Sec. 15. The Illinois Council on Women and Girls.

9 (a) There is hereby created the Illinois Council on Women
10 and Girls.

11 (b) The Council shall advise the Governor and the General
12 Assembly on policy issues impacting women and girls in this
13 State, including, but not limited to, the following goals:

14 (1) to advance the role and civic participation of
15 women and girls in this State;

16 (2) to put in place programs and advocate policies
17 that work to end the gender pay gap and discrimination in
18 professional and academic opportunities;

19 (3) to promote resources and opportunities for
20 academic and professional growth;

21 (4) to allow women and young girls to have legal
22 protections and recourse in cases of sexual harassment in
23 the workplace;

1 (5) to prevent and protect women from domestic
2 violence;

3 (6) to provide proper standards of healthcare, and to
4 study the disparate impacts on women as it pertains to
5 diverse demographics;

6 (7) to promote increased access to reproductive health
7 care;

8 (8) to protect women who are transgender from violence
9 and harassment, and increase their fair and equal access
10 to culturally competent health care, housing, employment,
11 and other opportunities;

12 (9) to disseminate information and build relationships
13 between State agencies and commissions in furtherance of
14 the Council's goals under this Act; and

15 (10) to give significant attention to the inclusion of
16 women of color in decision-making capacities and
17 identifying barriers toward parity, and for leadership
18 inclusion that works to realize America's founding
19 principles of equity and opportunity for all.

20 (c) The Council is hereby authorized to create
21 subcommittees. The Council may create a Subcommittee on
22 Opportunities for Women At Risk of Being Justice Impacted. The
23 Subcommittee on Opportunities for Women At Risk of Being
24 Justice Impacted may analyze, without limitation, the
25 following:

26 (1) existing State of Illinois boards, commissions,

1 councils, and task forces, as well as State of Illinois
2 initiatives and programs, that support women at risk of
3 being justice impacted;

4 (2) additional statewide councils managed by the
5 Department of Corrections;

6 (3) all State agencies and offices that help women at
7 risk of being justice impacted;

8 (4) federal, State, and local government offices that
9 help women at risk of being justice impacted through their
10 task forces or programs or that manage corrections and
11 jail facilities;

12 (5) organizations, including nonprofits, civic groups,
13 and faith-based organizations, that support women at risk
14 of being justice impacted;

15 (6) colleges and universities that support, through
16 academic research, initiatives, and programs, women at
17 risk of being justice impacted; and

18 (7) additional cross-sector organizational resources.

19 (d) As used in this Section, "women at risk of being
20 justice impacted" means women who are at increased risk of
21 incarceration because of historic injustices that have
22 perpetuated the lack of access to economic opportunities, such
23 as poverty, abuse, addiction, financial challenges,
24 illiteracy, or other causes. The term "women at risk of being
25 justice impacted" includes, but shall not be limited to, women
26 who have previously been incarcerated.

1 (Source: P.A. 100-913, eff. 8-17-18.)

2 Section 25. The Urban Weatherization Initiative Act is
3 amended by changing Section 40-40 as follows:

4 (30 ILCS 738/40-40)

5 Sec. 40-40. Weatherization Initiative Board.

6 (a) Subject to appropriation, the ~~The~~ Weatherization
7 Initiative Board is created within the Department. The Board
8 must approve or deny all grants from the Fund.

9 (a-5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article,
10 the Board has the authority to direct the Department to
11 authorize the awarding of grants to applicants serving areas
12 or populations not included in the target areas and
13 populations set forth in Section 40-25 if the Board determines
14 that there are special circumstances involving the areas or
15 populations served by the applicant.

16 (b) The Board shall consist of 5 voting members appointed
17 by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The
18 initial members shall have terms as follows as designated by
19 the Governor: one for one year, one for 2 years, one for 3
20 years, one for 4 years, and one for 5 years, or until a
21 successor is appointed and qualified. Thereafter, members
22 shall serve 5-year terms or until a successor is appointed and
23 qualified. The voting members shall elect a voting member to
24 serve as chair for a one-year term. Vacancies shall be filled

1 in the same manner for the balance of a term.

2 (c) The Board shall also have 4 non-voting ex officio
3 members appointed as follows: one Representative appointed by
4 the Speaker of the House, one Representative appointed by the
5 House Minority Leader, one Senator appointed by the President
6 of the Senate, and one Senator appointed by the Senate
7 Minority Leader, each to serve at the pleasure of the
8 appointing authority.

9 (d) Members shall receive no compensation, but may be
10 reimbursed for necessary expenses from appropriations to the
11 Department available for that purpose.

12 (e) The Board may adopt rules under the Illinois
13 Administrative Procedure Act.

14 (f) A quorum of the Board is at least 3 voting members, and
15 the affirmative vote of at least 3 voting members is required
16 for Board decisions and adoption of rules.

17 (g) The Department shall provide staff and administrative
18 assistance to the Board.

19 (h) By January 31 ~~December 31~~ of each year, the Board shall
20 file an annual report with the Governor and the General
21 Assembly concerning the Initiative, grants awarded, and
22 grantees and making recommendations for any changes needed to
23 enhance the effectiveness of the Initiative.

24 (Source: P.A. 96-37, eff. 7-13-09.)

25 Section 30. The Build Illinois Act is amended by changing

1 Sections 9-9 and 10-9 as follows:

2 (30 ILCS 750/9-9) (from Ch. 127, par. 2709-9)

3 Sec. 9-9. Annual Report. On January 31 ~~January 1~~ of each
4 year, the Department shall report on its operations of the
5 Illinois Capital Revolving Loan Fund and the Illinois Equity
6 Fund for the preceding fiscal year to the Governor and the
7 General Assembly.

8 (Source: P.A. 84-109.)

9 (30 ILCS 750/10-9) (from Ch. 127, par. 2710-9)

10 Sec. 10-9. Report. On January 31 ~~January 1~~ of each year,
11 the Department shall report on its operation of the Fund for
12 the preceding fiscal year to the Governor and the General
13 Assembly.

14 (Source: P.A. 84-109.)

15 Section 35. The Illinois Income Tax Act is amended by
16 changing Section 242 as follows:

17 (35 ILCS 5/242)

18 Sec. 242. Music and Musicians Tax Credits and Jobs Act.
19 Taxpayers who have been awarded a credit under the Music and
20 Musicians Tax Credits and Jobs Act are entitled to a credit
21 against the taxes imposed by subsections (a) and (b) of
22 Section 201 of this Act in an amount determined by the

1 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity under that
2 Act. The credit shall be claimed for ~~in~~ the taxable year in
3 which the tax credit award certificate is issued, and the
4 certificate shall be attached to the return. If the taxpayer
5 is a partnership or Subchapter S corporation, the credit shall
6 be allowed to the partners or shareholders in accordance with
7 the provisions of Section 251.

8 The credit may not reduce the taxpayer's liability to less
9 than zero. If the amount of the credit exceeds the tax
10 liability for the year, the excess may be carried forward and
11 applied to the tax liability of the 5 taxable years following
12 the excess credit year. The credit shall be applied to the
13 earliest year for which there is a tax liability. If there are
14 credits from more than one tax year that are available to
15 offset a liability, the earlier credit shall be applied first.

16 (Source: P.A. 103-592, Article 52, Section 52-5, eff. 6-7-24;
17 104-417, eff. 8-15-25.)

18 Section 37. The Music and Musicians Tax Credit and Jobs
19 Act is amended by changing Sections 50-10, 50-15, 50-35,
20 50-40, and 50-45 as follows:

21 (35 ILCS 19/50-10)

22 Sec. 50-10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

23 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic
24 Opportunity.

1 "Expenditure in the State" means (i) an expenditure to
2 acquire, from a source within the State, property that is
3 subject to tax under the Use Tax Act, the Service Use Tax Act,
4 the Service Occupation Tax Act, or the Retailers' Occupation
5 Tax Act or (ii) an expenditure for compensation for services
6 performed within the State that is subject to State income tax
7 under the Illinois Income Tax Act.

8 "Illinois labor expenditure" means gross salary or wages,
9 including, but not limited to, taxes, benefits, and any other
10 consideration incurred or paid to artist employees of the
11 applicant for services rendered to and on behalf of the
12 qualified music company, provided that the expenditure is:

13 (1) incurred or paid by the applicant on or after the
14 effective date of this Act for services related to any
15 portion of a qualified music company from rehearsals,
16 performances, and any other qualified music company
17 related activities;

18 (2) limited to the first \$100,000 of wages incurred or
19 paid to each employee of a qualified music production in
20 each calendar ~~tax~~ year;

21 (3) paid in the calendar year of the State-certified
22 production ~~tax year~~ for which the applicant is seeking
23 ~~claiming~~ the tax credit award;

24 (4) paid to persons residing in Illinois at the time
25 payments were made; and

26 (5) reasonable under the circumstances.

1 "Qualified music company" means an entity that (i) is
2 authorized to do business in Illinois, (ii) is engaged
3 directly or indirectly in the production, distribution, or
4 promotion of music, (iii) is certified by the Department as
5 meeting the eligibility requirements of this Act, and (iv) has
6 executed a contract with the Department providing the terms
7 and conditions for its participation.

8 "Qualified music company payroll" or "QMC payroll" means
9 wages reported by the qualified music company in box 1 of each
10 W-2 form prepared for an employee of the qualified music
11 company who is an Illinois resident.

12 "Resident copyright" means the copyright of a musical
13 composition written by an Illinois resident or owned by an
14 Illinois-domiciled music company, as evidenced by documents of
15 ownership, including, but not limited to, registration with
16 the United States Copyright Office.

17 "Sound recording" means a recording of music, poetry, or a
18 spoken-word performance made, in whole or in part, in
19 Illinois. "Sound recording" does not include the audio
20 portions of dialogue or words spoken and recorded as part of
21 television news coverage or athletic events.

22 "Sound recording production company" means a company
23 engaged in the business of producing sound recordings. "Sound
24 recording production company" does not include any person or
25 company, or any company owned, affiliated, or controlled, in
26 whole or in part, by any company or person, that is in default

1 on a loan made by the State or a loan guaranteed by the State,
2 nor which has ever declared bankruptcy under which an
3 obligation of the company or person to pay or repay public
4 funds or moneys was discharged as a part of the bankruptcy.

5 "State-certified production" means a sound recording
6 production, or a series of productions, including, but not
7 limited to, master and demonstration recordings, occurring
8 over the course of a 12-month period, and the base
9 production-related investment that is approved by the
10 Department after receipt by the Department of a complete
11 application for initial certification of a production.

12 "Tax credit award" means the issuance to a taxpayer by the
13 Department of a tax credit award against the taxes imposed by
14 subsections (a) and (b) of Section 201 of the Illinois Income
15 Tax Act as provided in this Act.

16 (Source: P.A. 103-592, eff. 6-7-24; 103-1055, eff. 12-20-24.)

17 (35 ILCS 19/50-15)

18 Sec. 50-15. Powers of the Department. The Department, in
19 addition to those powers granted under the Civil
20 Administrative Code of Illinois, is granted and has all the
21 powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the
22 purposes and provisions of this Act, including, but not
23 limited to, the power and authority to:

24 (1) adopt rules that are necessary and appropriate for
25 the administration of this Act;

1 (2) establish forms for applications, notifications,
2 contracts, or any other agreements with respect to tax
3 credits under this Act and to accept applications for tax
4 credits under this Act at any time during the year;

5 (3) assist applicants for tax credits under this Act
6 to promote, foster, and support sound recording and live
7 theater development and production and its related job
8 creation or retention within the State;

9 (4) gather information and conduct inquiries, as
10 provided in this Act, required for the Department to
11 comply with the provisions of this Act and, without
12 limitation, to obtain information with respect to
13 applicants for the purpose of making any designations or
14 certifications necessary or desirable to assist the
15 Department with any recommendation or guidance in the
16 furtherance of the purposes of this Act and relating to
17 applicants' participation in training, education, and
18 recruitment programs that are organized in cooperation
19 with Illinois colleges and universities or labor
20 organizations designed to promote and encourage the
21 training and hiring of Illinois residents who represent
22 the diversity of the Illinois population;

23 (5) provide for sufficient personnel to permit
24 administrative, staffing, operating, and related support
25 required to adequately discharge the Department's duties
26 and responsibilities under this Act from funds as may be

1 appropriated by the General Assembly for the
2 administration of this Act; and

3 (6) require that the applicant at all times keep
4 proper books and records of accounts relating to the tax
5 credit award, in accordance with generally accepted
6 accounting principles consistently applied, and make those
7 books and records available for reasonable Department
8 inspection and audit, upon reasonable written request by
9 the Department, during the applicant's normal business
10 hours. Any documents or data made available to the
11 Department or received by the Department from the
12 applicant by any agent, employee, officer, or service
13 provider shall be deemed confidential and shall not
14 constitute public records to the extent that the documents
15 or data consist of commercial or financial information
16 regarding the operation by the applicant of any qualified
17 music company ~~theater~~ or any accredited music ~~theater~~
18 production or any recipient of any tax credit award under
19 this Act.

20 (Source: P.A. 103-592, eff. 6-7-24.)

21 (35 ILCS 19/50-35)

22 Sec. 50-35. Issuance of tax credit award certificate.

23 (a) In order to qualify for a tax credit award under this
24 Act, an applicant must file an application for each qualified
25 music company at each of the applicant's qualified facilities,

1 on forms prescribed by the Department, providing information
2 necessary to calculate the tax credit award and any additional
3 information as reasonably required by the Department.

4 (b) Upon satisfactory review of the application, the
5 Department shall issue a tax credit award certificate stating
6 the amount of the tax credit award to which the applicant is
7 entitled for that calendar ~~tax~~ year and shall
8 contemporaneously notify the applicant and the Department of
9 Revenue.

10 (c) For calendar ~~tax~~ years beginning on or after January
11 1, 2026, ~~January 1, 2025,~~ a taxpayer who has been awarded a tax
12 credit under paragraph (b) of this Section is entitled to a
13 credit against the taxes imposed under subsections (a) and (b)
14 of Section 201 of the Illinois Income Tax Act.

15 (Source: P.A. 103-592, eff. 6-7-24.)

16 (35 ILCS 19/50-40)

17 Sec. 50-40. Amount and payment of the tax credit award.

18 (a) For calendar ~~taxable~~ years beginning on or after
19 January 1, 2026, ~~January 1, 2025,~~ the Department shall
20 determine the amount of the tax award under this Act. The award
21 may not exceed 10% of the Illinois labor expenditures for the
22 State-certified production if the QMC payroll of the qualified
23 music company for the calendar ~~taxable~~ year does not exceed
24 \$150,000 or 15% of the Illinois labor expenditures for the
25 State-certified production if the QMC payroll of the qualified

1 music company for the calendar ~~taxable~~ year exceeds \$150,000,
2 plus all of the following:

3 (1) an additional 15% of the Illinois labor
4 expenditures for the State-certified production generated
5 by the employment of Illinois residents in geographic
6 areas of high poverty or high unemployment in each
7 calendar ~~tax~~ year, as determined by the Department; and

8 (2) an additional 7% of the Illinois labor
9 expenditures for the State-certified production generated
10 by the employment of individuals who are employed at a
11 wage of no less than the general prevailing hourly rate as
12 paid for work of a similar character in the locality in
13 which the work is performed; and

14 (3) an additional 7% of the Illinois labor
15 expenditures for the State-certified production incurred
16 by a qualified music company and spent on post-production
17 sound recording for television or film work completed in
18 Illinois.

19 (b) To the extent that the base investment by a qualified
20 music company is expended on a sound recording production of a
21 resident copyright, the investor shall be allowed an
22 additional 10% increase in the base investment rate.

23 (c) The aggregate amount of credits certified for all
24 investors pursuant to this Section during any calendar year
25 shall not exceed \$2,000,000. No more than \$200,000 in tax
26 credits may be granted per calendar year for any single

1 qualified music company.

2 (d) A business is eligible for participation in the
3 program if the business meets all of the following criteria:

4 (1) The business is engaged directly or indirectly in
5 the production, distribution, and promotion of music.

6 (2) The business is approved by the Director of
7 Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

8 (e) Upon approval of a tax credit award under this Act, the
9 Department shall issue a tax credit certificate to the
10 applicant.

11 (Source: P.A. 103-592, eff. 6-7-24; 103-1055, eff. 12-20-24.)

12 (35 ILCS 19/50-45)

13 Sec. 50-45. Qualified music program evaluation and
14 reports.

15 (a) (Blank).

16 The Department may make a recommendation to extend,
17 modify, or not extend the program based on the evaluation.

18 (b) (Blank).

19 (c) On or before June 1 of each ~~At the end of each fiscal~~
20 year, the Department shall submit to the General Assembly a
21 report for the prior calendar year that includes, without
22 limitation:

23 (1) the identification of each vendor that provided
24 goods or services that were included in a qualified music
25 company's Illinois spending;

1 (2) a statement of the amount paid to each identified
2 vendor by the qualified music program and whether the
3 vendor is a minority-owned or women-owned business as
4 defined in Section 2 of the Business Enterprise for
5 Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act; and

6 (3) a description of the steps taken by the Department
7 to encourage qualified music companies to use vendors who
8 are minority-owned or women-owned businesses.

9 (Source: P.A. 103-592, eff. 6-7-24; 103-1055, eff. 12-20-24;
10 104-283, eff. 8-15-25.)

11 Section 40. The Southeastern Illinois Economic Development
12 Authority Act is amended by changing Section 20 as follows:

13 (70 ILCS 518/20)

14 Sec. 20. Creation.

15 (a) There is created a political subdivision, body
16 politic, and municipal corporation named the Southeastern
17 Illinois Economic Development Authority. The territorial
18 jurisdiction of the Authority is that geographic area within
19 the boundaries of the following counties: Fayette, Cumberland,
20 Clark, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Marion, Clay, Richland,
21 Lawrence, Jefferson, Wayne, Edwards, Wabash, Hamilton, and
22 White; Irvington Township in Washington County; and any
23 navigable waters and air space located therein.

24 (b) The governing and administrative powers of the

1 Authority shall be vested in a body consisting of 26 public ~~27~~
2 members and one ex officio member, as follows:

3 (1) Public members. Nine members shall be appointed by
4 the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.
5 The county board chairmen of the following counties shall
6 each appoint one member: Clark, Clay, Crawford,
7 Cumberland, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Hamilton, Jasper,
8 Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Richland, Wabash, Washington,
9 Wayne, and White.

10 (2) Ex officio member. The Director of Commerce and
11 Economic Opportunity or the Director's designee shall
12 serve as an ex officio member. ~~One member shall be~~
13 ~~appointed by the Director of Commerce and Economic~~
14 ~~Opportunity.~~

15 All public members shall reside within the territorial
16 jurisdiction of the Authority. The public members shall be
17 persons of recognized ability and experience in one or more of
18 the following areas: economic development, finance, banking,
19 industrial development, state or local government, commercial
20 agriculture, small business management, real estate
21 development, community development, venture finance, organized
22 labor, or civic or community organization.

23 (c) Fourteen members shall constitute a quorum, and the
24 Board may not meet or take any action without a quorum present.

25 (d) The chairman of the Authority shall be elected
26 annually by the Board.

1 (e) The terms of the initial members of the Authority
2 shall begin 30 days after the effective date of this Act. Of
3 the 10 original members appointed by the Governor and the
4 Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity pursuant to
5 subsection (b), one shall serve until the third Monday in
6 January, 2005; one shall serve until the third Monday in
7 January, 2006; 2 shall serve until the third Monday in
8 January, 2007; 2 shall serve until the third Monday in
9 January, 2008; 2 shall serve until the third Monday in
10 January, 2009; and 2 shall serve until the third Monday in
11 January, 2010. The terms of the initial public members of the
12 Authority appointed by the county board chairmen shall begin
13 30 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the
14 97th General Assembly. The terms of the initial public members
15 appointed by the county board chairmen shall be determined by
16 lot, according to the following schedule: (i) 4 shall serve
17 until the third Monday in January, 2013, (ii) 4 shall serve
18 until the third Monday in January, 2014, (iii) 3 shall serve
19 until the third Monday in January, 2015, (iv) 3 shall serve
20 until the third Monday in January, 2016, and (v) 3 shall serve
21 until the third Monday in January, 2017. All successors to
22 these initial members shall be appointed by the original
23 appointing authority pursuant to subsection (b), and shall
24 hold office for a term of 3 years commencing the third Monday
25 in January of the year in which their term commences, except in
26 the case of an appointment to fill a vacancy. Vacancies

1 occurring among the members shall be filled for the remainder
2 of the term. In case of a vacancy in a Governor-appointed
3 membership when the Senate is not in session, the Governor may
4 make a temporary appointment until the next meeting of the
5 Senate when a person shall be nominated to fill the office and,
6 upon confirmation by the Senate, he or she shall hold office
7 during the remainder of the term and until a successor is
8 appointed and qualified. Members of the Authority are not
9 entitled to compensation for their services as members but are
10 entitled to reimbursement for all necessary expenses incurred
11 in connection with the performance of their duties as members.
12 Members of the Board may participate in Board meetings by
13 teleconference or video conference.

14 (f) The Governor may remove any public member of the
15 Authority appointed by the Governor, and the Director of
16 Commerce and Economic Opportunity may remove any member
17 appointed by the Director, in case of incompetence, neglect of
18 duty, or malfeasance in office. The chairman of a county
19 board, with the approval of a majority vote of the county
20 board, may remove any public member appointed by that chairman
21 in the case of incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance
22 in office.

23 (g) The Board shall appoint an Executive Director who
24 shall have a background in finance, including familiarity with
25 the legal and procedural requirements of issuing bonds, real
26 estate, or economic development and administration. The

1 Executive Director shall hold office at the discretion of the
2 Board. The Executive Director shall be the chief
3 administrative and operational officer of the Authority, shall
4 direct and supervise its administrative affairs and general
5 management, perform such other duties as may be prescribed
6 from time to time by the members, and receive compensation
7 fixed by the Authority. The Executive Director shall attend
8 all meetings of the Authority. However, no action of the
9 Authority shall be invalid on account of the absence of the
10 Executive Director from a meeting. The Authority may engage
11 the services of the Illinois Finance Authority, attorneys,
12 appraisers, engineers, accountants, credit analysts, and other
13 consultants, if the Southeastern Illinois Economic Development
14 Authority deems it advisable.

15 (Source: P.A. 103-517, eff. 8-11-23.)

16 Section 45. The Broadband Advisory Council Act is amended
17 by changing Section 20 as follows:

18 (220 ILCS 80/20)

19 Sec. 20. Powers and duties of the Council generally.

20 (a) The Council shall:

21 (1) explore any and all ways to expand the
22 availability to end-user customers of broadband services
23 using available technologies, including, but not limited
24 to, wireline, wireless, fixed wireless, and satellite

1 applications;

2 (2) identify barriers to broadband adoption among the
3 residents and small businesses of Illinois;

4 (3) research ways to eliminate barriers to adoption
5 through measures such as: digital literacy programs;
6 programs to assist older citizens in using broadband
7 Internet access; programs to facilitate adoption by
8 disabled citizens; and programs to encourage collaborative
9 efforts among public universities, community colleges,
10 libraries, public housing, and other institutions;

11 (4) assess the availability of broadband for
12 low-income households compared to the availability of
13 broadband for other households;

14 (5) explore the potential for increased use of
15 broadband service for the purposes of education, career
16 readiness, workforce preparation, and alternative career
17 training;

18 (6) explore the potential for increased use of
19 broadband services to facilitate aging in place;

20 (7) explore ways for encouraging State and municipal
21 agencies, including public housing authorities, to expand
22 the use of broadband services for the purpose of better
23 serving the public, including audio and video streaming,
24 voice-over Internet protocol, teleconferencing, and
25 wireless networking;

26 (8) cooperate and assist in the expansion of

1 electronic instruction and distance education services;

2 (9) as the Federal Communications Commission updates
3 the benchmark downstream data rates and upstream data
4 rates, publish the revised data rates in the Illinois
5 Register within 60 days after the federal update; and

6 (10) evaluate the expansion of the Illinois Century
7 Network to Illinois public schools, public libraries, and
8 State-owned correctional institutions or facilities,
9 including issuing recommendations for increasing agency
10 staffing, infrastructure development, price modeling, and
11 providing download speeds of at least one gigabyte per
12 second and upload speeds of at least one gigabyte per
13 second.

14 (b) In addition to the powers set forth elsewhere in this
15 Act, the Council is hereby granted the powers necessary to
16 carry out the purpose and intent of this Act, as enumerated in
17 this Section, including, but not limited to:

18 (1) promoting awareness of public facilities that have
19 community broadband access that can be used for distance
20 education and workforce development; and

21 (2) advising on deployment of e-government portals
22 such that all public bodies and political subdivisions
23 have websites and encourage one-stop government access and
24 that all public entities stream audio and video of all
25 public meetings.

26 (c) The Council shall also:

1 (1) monitor the broadband-based development efforts of
2 other states in areas such as business, education, aging
3 in place, and health;

4 (2) receive input provided on a voluntary basis from
5 all Illinois broadband stakeholders and advise the
6 Governor and the General Assembly on policies related to
7 broadband in Illinois, provided that no stakeholders shall
8 be required to publicly disclose competitively sensitive
9 information or information that could compromise network
10 security or undermine the efficacy of reasonable network
11 management practices, and that any such information
12 voluntarily disclosed shall be protected from public
13 disclosure; and

14 (3) serve as the broadband advocate to State agencies
15 and other State entities to communicate the broadband
16 needs of citizens and organizations that do not have
17 access to broadband service or to broadband service
18 adequate for their needs.

19 (d) The Council shall exercise its powers and authority to
20 (1) advise and make recommendations to the General Assembly
21 and the Governor on bringing broadband service to unserved and
22 underserved rural and urban areas and improving broadband
23 service statewide, (2) advise and make recommendations to the
24 General Assembly and the Governor on facilitating broadband
25 adoption by all citizens, and (3) propose statutory changes
26 that may enhance and expand broadband in the State.

1 (e) The Council shall report to the General Assembly on or
2 before January 31 ~~January 1~~ of each year. The report to the
3 General Assembly shall be filed with the Clerk of the House of
4 Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate in electronic
5 form only, in the manner that the Clerk and the Secretary shall
6 direct. The report shall include the action that was taken by
7 the Council during the previous year in carrying out the
8 provisions of this Act. The Council shall also make any other
9 reports as may be required by the General Assembly or the
10 Governor.

11 (Source: P.A. 103-483, eff. 8-4-23.)

12 Section 50. The Energy Assistance Act is amended by
13 changing Section 5 as follows:

14 (305 ILCS 20/5) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 1405)

15 Sec. 5. Policy Advisory Council.

16 (a) Within the Department of Commerce and Economic
17 Opportunity is created a Low Income Energy Assistance Policy
18 Advisory Council.

19 (b) The Council shall be chaired by the Director of
20 Commerce and Economic Opportunity or his or her designee.
21 There shall be 17 ~~19~~ members of the Low Income Energy
22 Assistance Policy Advisory Council, including the chairperson
23 and the following members:

24 (1) one member designated by the Illinois Commerce

1 Commission;

2 (2) (blank);

3 (3) one member designated by the Illinois Energy
4 Association to represent electric public utilities serving
5 in excess of 1 million customers in this State;

6 (4) one member agreed upon by gas public utilities
7 that serve more than 500,000 and fewer than 1,500,000
8 customers in this State;

9 (5) one member agreed upon by gas public utilities
10 that serve 1,500,000 or more customers in this State;

11 (6) one member designated by the Illinois Energy
12 Association to represent combination gas and electric
13 public utilities;

14 (7) one member agreed upon by the Illinois Municipal
15 Electric Agency and the Association of Illinois Electric
16 Cooperatives;

17 (8) one member agreed upon by the Illinois Industrial
18 Energy Consumers;

19 (9) three members designated by the Department to
20 represent low income energy consumers;

21 (10) two members designated by the Illinois Community
22 Action Association to represent local agencies that assist
23 in the administration of this Act;

24 (11) one member designated by the Citizens Utility
25 Board to represent residential energy consumers;

26 (12) (blank); ~~one member designated by the Illinois~~

1 ~~Retail Merchants Association to represent commercial~~
2 ~~energy customers;~~

3 (13) (blank); ~~one member designated by the Department~~
4 ~~to represent independent energy providers;~~ and

5 (14) three members designated by the Mayor of the City
6 of Chicago.

7 (c) Designated and appointed members shall serve 2 year
8 terms and until their successors are appointed and qualified.
9 The designating organization shall notify the chairperson of
10 any changes or substitutions of a designee within 10 business
11 days of a change or substitution. Members shall serve without
12 compensation, but may receive reimbursement for actual costs
13 incurred in fulfilling their duties as members of the Council.

14 (d) The Council shall have the following duties:

15 (1) to monitor the administration of this Act to
16 ensure effective, efficient, and coordinated program
17 development and implementation;

18 (2) to assist the Department in developing and
19 administering rules and regulations required to be
20 promulgated pursuant to this Act in a manner consistent
21 with the purpose and objectives of this Act;

22 (3) to facilitate and coordinate the collection and
23 exchange of all program data and other information needed
24 by the Department and others in fulfilling their duties
25 pursuant to this Act;

26 (4) to advise the Department on the proper level of

1 support required for effective administration of the Act;

2 (5) to provide a written opinion concerning any
3 regulation proposed pursuant to this Act, and to review
4 and comment on any energy assistance or related plan
5 required to be prepared by the Department;

6 (6) to advise the Department on the use of funds
7 collected pursuant to Section 11 of this Act, and on any
8 changes to existing low income energy assistance programs
9 to make effective use of such funds, so long as such uses
10 and changes are consistent with the requirements of the
11 Act.

12 (Source: P.A. 97-916, eff. 8-9-12.)

13 Section 55. The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act is amended
14 by changing Section 7-15 as follows:

15 (410 ILCS 705/7-15)

16 Sec. 7-15. Loans and grants to Social Equity Applicants.

17 (a) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
18 shall establish grant and loan programs, subject to
19 appropriations from the Cannabis Business Development Fund,
20 for the purposes of providing financial assistance, loans,
21 grants, and technical assistance to Social Equity Applicants.

22 (b) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
23 has the power to:

24 (1) provide Cannabis Social Equity loans and grants

1 from appropriations from the Cannabis Business Development
2 Fund to assist Qualified Social Equity Applicants in
3 gaining entry to, and successfully operating in, the
4 State's regulated cannabis marketplace;

5 (2) enter into agreements that set forth terms and
6 conditions of the financial assistance, accept funds or
7 grants, and engage in cooperation with private entities
8 and agencies of State or local government to carry out the
9 purposes of this Section;

10 (3) fix, determine, charge, and collect any premiums,
11 fees, charges, costs and expenses, including application
12 fees, commitment fees, program fees, financing charges, or
13 publication fees in connection with its activities under
14 this Section;

15 (4) coordinate assistance under these loan programs
16 with activities of the Illinois Department of Financial
17 and Professional Regulation, the Illinois Department of
18 Agriculture, and other agencies as needed to maximize the
19 effectiveness and efficiency of this Act;

20 (5) provide staff, administration, and related support
21 required to administer this Section;

22 (6) take whatever actions are necessary or appropriate
23 to protect the State's interest in the event of
24 bankruptcy, default, foreclosure, or noncompliance with
25 the terms and conditions of financial assistance provided
26 under this Section, including the ability to recapture

1 funds if the recipient is found to be noncompliant with
2 the terms and conditions of the financial assistance
3 agreement;

4 (7) establish application, notification, contract, and
5 other forms, procedures, or rules deemed necessary and
6 appropriate; and

7 (8) utilize vendors or contract work to carry out the
8 purposes of this Act.

9 (c) Loans made under this Section:

10 (1) shall only be made if, in the Department's
11 judgment, the project furthers the goals set forth in this
12 Act; and

13 (2) shall be in such principal amount and form and
14 contain such terms and provisions with respect to
15 security, insurance, reporting, delinquency charges,
16 default remedies, and other matters as the Department
17 shall determine appropriate to protect the public interest
18 and to be consistent with the purposes of this Section.
19 The terms and provisions may be less than required for
20 similar loans not covered by this Section.

21 (d) Grants made under this Section shall be awarded on a
22 competitive and annual basis under the Grant Accountability
23 and Transparency Act. Grants made under this Section shall
24 further and promote the goals of this Act, including promotion
25 of Social Equity Applicants, job training and workforce
26 development, and technical assistance to Social Equity

1 Applicants.

2 (e) On or before January 31 of ~~Beginning January 1, 2021~~
3 ~~and~~ each year ~~thereafter~~, the Department shall annually report
4 to the Governor and the General Assembly on the outcomes and
5 effectiveness of this Section that shall include the
6 following:

7 (1) the number of persons or businesses receiving
8 financial assistance under this Section;

9 (2) the amount in financial assistance awarded in the
10 aggregate, in addition to the amount of loans made that
11 are outstanding and the amount of grants awarded;

12 (3) the location of the project engaged in by the
13 person or business; and

14 (4) if applicable, the number of new jobs and other
15 forms of economic output created as a result of the
16 financial assistance.

17 (f) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
18 shall include engagement with individuals with limited English
19 proficiency as part of its outreach provided or targeted to
20 attract and support Social Equity Applicants.

21 (Source: P.A. 101-27, eff. 6-25-19; 101-593, eff. 12-4-19.)

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