

1 AN ACT concerning revenue.

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

4 Section 3. The Illinois Enterprise Zone Act is amended by  
5 changing Section 4 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 655/4) (from Ch. 67 1/2, par. 604)

7 Sec. 4. Qualifications for Enterprise Zones.

8 (1) An area is qualified to become an enterprise zone  
9 which:

10 (a) is a contiguous area, provided that a zone area may  
11 exclude wholly surrounded territory within its boundaries;

12 (b) comprises a minimum of one-half square mile and not  
13 more than 12 square miles, or 15 square miles if the zone  
14 is located within the jurisdiction of 4 or more counties or  
15 municipalities, in total area, exclusive of lakes and  
16 waterways; however, in such cases where the enterprise zone  
17 is a joint effort of three or more units of government, or  
18 two or more units of government if situated in a township  
19 which is divided by a municipality of 1,000,000 or more  
20 inhabitants, and where the certification has been in effect  
21 at least one year, the total area shall comprise a minimum  
22 of one-half square mile and not more than thirteen square  
23 miles in total area exclusive of lakes and waterways;

1 (c) (blank);

2 (d) (blank);

3 (e) is (1) entirely within a municipality or (2)  
4 entirely within the unincorporated areas of a county,  
5 except where reasonable need is established for such zone  
6 to cover portions of more than one municipality or county  
7 or (3) both comprises (i) all or part of a municipality and  
8 (ii) an unincorporated area of a county; and

9 (f) meets 3 or more of the following criteria:

10 (1) all or part of the local labor market area has  
11 had an annual average unemployment rate of at least  
12 120% of the State's annual average unemployment rate  
13 for the most recent calendar year or the most recent  
14 fiscal year as reported by the Department of Employment  
15 Security;

16 (2) designation will result in the development of  
17 substantial employment opportunities by creating or  
18 retaining a minimum aggregate of 1,000 full-time  
19 equivalent jobs due to an aggregate investment of  
20 \$100,000,000 or more, and will help alleviate the  
21 effects of poverty and unemployment within the local  
22 labor market area;

23 (3) all or part of the local labor market area has  
24 a poverty rate of at least 20% according to the latest  
25 federal decennial census, 50% or more of children in  
26 the local labor market area participate in the federal

1 free lunch program according to reported statistics  
2 from the State Board of Education, or 20% or more  
3 households in the local labor market area receive food  
4 stamps according to the latest federal decennial  
5 census;

6 (4) an abandoned coal mine, ~~or~~ a brownfield (as  
7 defined in Section 58.2 of the Environmental  
8 Protection Act), or an inactive nuclear powered  
9 electrical generation facility where spent nuclear  
10 fuel is stored on-site is located in the proposed zone  
11 area, or all or a portion of the proposed zone was  
12 declared a federal disaster area in the 3 years  
13 preceding the date of application;

14 (5) the local labor market area contains a presence  
15 of large employers that have downsized over the years,  
16 the labor market area has experienced plant closures in  
17 the 5 years prior to the date of application affecting  
18 more than 50 workers, or the local labor market area  
19 has experienced State or federal facility closures in  
20 the 5 years prior to the date of application affecting  
21 more than 50 workers;

22 (6) based on data from Multiple Listing Service  
23 information or other suitable sources, the local labor  
24 market area contains a high floor vacancy rate of  
25 industrial or commercial properties, vacant or  
26 demolished commercial and industrial structures are

1           prevalent in the local labor market area, or industrial  
2           structures in the local labor market area are not used  
3           because of age, deterioration, relocation of the  
4           former occupants, or cessation of operation;

5           (7) the applicant demonstrates a substantial plan  
6           for using the designation to improve the State and  
7           local government tax base, including income, sales,  
8           and property taxes;

9           (8) significant public infrastructure is present  
10          in the local labor market area in addition to a plan  
11          for infrastructure development and improvement;

12          (9) high schools or community colleges located  
13          within the local labor market area are engaged in ACT  
14          Work Keys, Manufacturing Skills Standard  
15          Certification, or other industry-based credentials  
16          that prepare students for careers; or

17          (10) the change in equalized assessed valuation of  
18          industrial and/or commercial properties in the 5 years  
19          prior to the date of application is equal to or less  
20          than 50% of the State average change in equalized  
21          assessed valuation for industrial and/or commercial  
22          properties, as applicable, for the same period of time.

23          As provided in Section 10-5.3 of the River Edge  
24          Redevelopment Zone Act, upon the expiration of the term of each  
25          River Edge Redevelopment Zone in existence on the effective  
26          date of this amendatory Act of the 97th General Assembly, that

1 River Edge Redevelopment Zone will become available for its  
2 previous designee or a new applicant to compete for designation  
3 as an enterprise zone. No preference for designation will be  
4 given to the previous designee of the zone.

5 (2) Any criteria established by the Department or by law  
6 which utilize the rate of unemployment for a particular area  
7 shall provide that all persons who are not presently employed  
8 and have exhausted all unemployment benefits shall be  
9 considered unemployed, whether or not such persons are actively  
10 seeking employment.

11 (Source: P.A. 97-905, eff. 8-7-12.)

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
13 becoming law.