



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

**HB5544**

by Rep. Anna Moeller

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Council on Women and Girls Act. Creates the Illinois Council on Women and Girls. Provides that the Council shall advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policy issues impacting women and girls in this State with specified goals. Provides for the appointment of members to the Council. Provides for the meetings and operations of the Council. Requires the Council to issue semi-annual reports on its policy recommendations by June 30th and December 31st of each year to the Governor and the General Assembly. Provides findings and declaration of policy. Provides a severability clause. Effective immediately.

LRB100 20125 RJF 36163 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Illinois Council on Women and Girls Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and declaration of policy. The General  
7 Assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares the following:

8 (1) the number of women and girls, of all ages in  
9 Illinois as of 2013, was close to half of the State's  
10 population, at 6,560,187;

11 (2) approximately 13% of the total population of the  
12 women are immigrants;

13 (3) Illinois women who work full-time, year-round,  
14 earn 80 cents on the dollar compared with similarly  
15 employed men;

16 (4) approximately 28.2% of those working in science,  
17 technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields in  
18 Illinois are women, compared with 28.8% nationwide;

19 (5) approximately 32.7% of women in Illinois have a  
20 bachelor's degree or higher, which is an increase of about  
21 8 percentage points since the 2000;

22 (6) women in Illinois who are unionized earn \$122 more  
23 per week, on average, than those who are not represented by

1 a union;

2 (7) approximately 61% of women in Illinois are part of  
3 the labor force, and 27.2% of businesses in Illinois are  
4 owned by women;

5 (8) heart disease is the biggest killer of women in the  
6 United States, and Illinois ranks 29 of 51 with a mortality  
7 rate of 136.9 per 100,000 women, specifically, 133.8 for  
8 Caucasian women, 79.8 Hispanic women, 186.1 for African  
9 American women, 70.5 for Pacific Islander women, and 72.1  
10 for Native American women;

11 (9) the female lung cancer mortality rates for women,  
12 per 100,000, in 2011-2013, was 42.0 for Caucasian women,  
13 11.6 for Hispanic women; 44.2 for African American women;  
14 and 15.8 for Pacific Islander women;

15 (10) the female breast cancer mortality rates for  
16 women, per 100,000, in 2011-2013, was 22.8 for Caucasian  
17 women, 10.6 for Hispanic women, 32.6 for African American  
18 women, and 11.5 for Pacific Islander women; and

19 (11) approximately 65.9% of women in Illinois are  
20 registered to vote.

21 Based on the foregoing findings, the General Assembly  
22 determines and declares that it is the public policy of the  
23 State of Illinois to provide fair and equal access for women in  
24 Illinois to adequate healthcare, resources for professional  
25 and academic opportunity, and resources for safety and proper  
26 living conditions for them and their young children, paying

1 attention to the variances of impact in these areas along the  
2 lines of race and ethnicity.

3 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

4 "Council" means the Illinois Council on Women and Girls  
5 created by this Act.

6 "Woman" or "women" means persons who are biologically  
7 female or who are transgender and identify as female.

8 Section 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 that  
17 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;

24 (5) to prevent and protect women from domestic

1 violence;

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

5 (7) to protect women of the transgender community that  
6 are marginalized in specific areas of safety, healthcare,  
7 and opportunity; and

8 (8) to disseminate information and build relationships  
9 between State agencies and commissions in furtherance of  
10 the Council's goals under this Act.

11 Section 20. Council members.

12 (a) The Council shall consist of 21 members. The Governor  
13 shall appoint one member to be the representative of the Office  
14 of the Governor. The Governor, the President of the Senate, the  
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of  
16 the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House of  
17 Representatives shall also each appoint 4 public members to the  
18 Council. The Governor shall select the chairperson of the  
19 Council from among the members.

20 (b) Appointing authorities shall ensure, to the maximum  
21 extent practicable, that the Council is diverse with respect to  
22 race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, and geography.

23 (c) Appointments to the Council shall be persons of  
24 recognized ability and experience in one or more of the  
25 following areas: higher education, business, law, social

1 services, human services, immigration, refugee services,  
2 community development, or healthcare.

3 (d) Members of the Council shall serve 2-year terms. A  
4 member shall serve until his or her successor shall be  
5 appointed and qualified. Members of the Council shall not be  
6 entitled to compensation for their services as members.

7 (e) The following officials shall serve as ex officio  
8 members: the Lieutenant Governor, or his or her designee, and  
9 the Chief of the Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services  
10 within the Department of Human Services, or his or her  
11 designee. Additionally, the Director, Executive Director, or  
12 Superintendent of the following State agencies shall each  
13 appoint one liaison to serve as an ex officio member of the  
14 Council: the Department on Aging, the Department of Children  
15 and Family Services, the Department of Healthcare and Family  
16 Services, the Department of Public Health, the Department of  
17 Labor, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois  
18 Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Community College  
19 Board.

20 (f) The Council may establish committees that address  
21 certain issues, including, but not limited to, communications,  
22 economic development, and legislative affairs.

23 (g) The Office of the Governor shall provide administrative  
24 and technical support to the Council, including a staff member  
25 to serve as the Council's ethics officer.

1           Section 25. Meetings. The Council shall meet at least once  
2 per quarter. In addition, the Council may hold up to 2 public  
3 hearings annually to assist in the development of policy  
4 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly, and  
5 implement programming to meet its overall mission goals. All  
6 meetings of the Council shall be conducted in accordance with  
7 the Open Meetings Act. A majority of current non-ex-officio  
8 members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

9           Section 30. Reports. The Council shall issue semi-annual  
10 reports on its policy recommendations by June 30th and December  
11 31st of each year to the Governor and the General Assembly.

12           Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are  
13 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

14           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
15 becoming law.