

1 AN ACT concerning 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 Muslim American Advisory Council Act.

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

8 (a) The State of Illinois is home to over 500,000 Muslims
9 and over 300 mosques, representing various races and
10 ethnicities, including but not limited to African Americans,
11 West and East African Americans, South Asian Americans, Arab
12 Americans, Latin Americans, and Caucasian Americans. They also
13 represent a variety of professions, including, but not limited
14 to, lawyers, business owners, professors, and community
15 activists.

16 (b) Muslims are the third largest religious group in the
17 State of Illinois after Roman Catholics and independent
18 Evangelical Christians.

19 (c) It is the public policy of the State of Illinois to
20 promote diversity and to ensure inclusion of all religious,
21 racial, and ethnic groups within this State.

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

1 "Council" means the Illinois Muslim American Advisory
2 Council created by this Act.

3 "Muslim" means an individual who practices the religion of
4 Islam.

5 Section 15. The Illinois Muslim American Advisory Council.
6 There is hereby created the Illinois Muslim American Advisory
7 Council. The purpose of the Council is to advise the Governor
8 and the General Assembly on policy issues impacting Muslim
9 Americans and immigrants; to advance the role and civic
10 participation of Muslim Americans in this State; to enhance
11 trade and cooperation between Muslim-majority countries and
12 this State; and to build relationships with and disseminate
13 information to, in cooperation with State agencies, boards, and
14 commissions, Muslim American and immigrant communities across
15 this State.

16 Section 20. Council members.

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

1 (b) Appointing authorities shall ensure, to the maximum
2 extent practicable, that the Council is diverse with respect to
3 race, ethnicity, age, gender, and geography.

4 (c) Appointments to the Council shall be persons of
5 recognized ability and experience in one or more of the
6 following areas: higher education, business, international
7 trade, law, social services, human services, immigration,
8 refugee services, community development, or healthcare.

9 (d) Members of the Council shall serve 2-year terms. A
10 member shall serve until his or her successor shall be
11 appointed. Members of the Council shall not be entitled to
12 compensation for their services as members.

13 (e) The following officials shall serve as ex-officio
14 members: the Deputy Director of the Office of Trade and
15 Investment within the Department of Commerce and Economic
16 Opportunity, or his or her designee, and the Chief of the
17 Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services within the Department
18 of Human Services, or his or her designee. In addition, the
19 Department on Aging, the Department of Children and Family
20 Services, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the
21 Department of Public Health, the Department of Central
22 Management Services, the Board of Education, the Board of
23 Higher Education, and the Community College Board shall each
24 appoint a liaison to serve as an ex-officio member of the
25 Council.

26 (f) The Council may establish committees that address

1 certain issues, including, but not limited to, communications,
2 economic development, and legislative affairs.

3 (g) The Office of the Governor shall provide administrative
4 and technical support to the Council, including a staff member
5 to serve as ethics officer.

6 Section 25. Meetings. The Council shall meet at least once
7 per month. In addition, the Council may hold up to 2 public
8 hearings annually to assist in the development of policy
9 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. All
10 meetings of the Council shall be conducted in accordance with
11 the Open Meetings Act. Eleven members of the Council shall
12 constitute a quorum.

13 Section 30. Reports. The Council shall issue semi-annual
14 reports on its policy recommendations by June 30th and December
15 31st of each year to the Governor and the General Assembly.

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

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law.