

1 AN ACT concerning property.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois Highway Code is amended by
5 changing Section 4-508 as follows:

6 (605 ILCS 5/4-508) (from Ch. 121, par. 4-508)

7 Sec. 4-508. (a) Except as provided in paragraphs (c) and
8 (d) of this Section, and subject to the written approval of the
9 Governor and, if required by federal law or regulation, the
10 Federal Highway Administration, the Department may dispose of,
11 by public sale, at auction or by sealed bids, any land,
12 dedications, easements, access rights, or any interest in the
13 real estate that it holds, ~~rights~~ or other properties, real or
14 personal, acquired for but no longer needed for highway
15 purposes or remnants acquired under the provisions of Section
16 4-501. Such ~~, provided that no such~~ sale may be made at ~~for~~
17 ~~less than~~ the fair market appraised value of such land,
18 rights, or property, as determined by the Department. The fair
19 market value of the land, rights, or property may be based on
20 one or more appraisals completed by a qualified appraiser
21 approved by the Department or a valuation waiver prepared by
22 the Department. A sale below the fair market value, as
23 established by this Section, shall be justified, in writing,

1 by Department staff, which shall include consideration of all
2 relevant information, including, but not limited to, findings
3 regarding the best interests of the Department, other public
4 benefits such as divestment of liabilities, or changed
5 circumstances. The Department shall develop a policy to assign
6 a monetary value of all such considerations in valuation
7 determinations. An appraisal may be paid for by any interested
8 party. The form of the conveyance or release shall be in a form
9 approved by the Department.

10 (b) Except as provided in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this
11 Section, and subject to the written approval of the Governor,
12 the Department may exchange any land, rights or property no
13 longer needed for highway purposes or remnants acquired under
14 the provisions of Section 4-501 of this Code for equivalent
15 interests in land, rights or property needed for highway
16 purposes. Where such interests are not of equivalent value
17 cash may be paid or received for the difference in value.

18 (c) If at the time any property previously determined by
19 the Department to be needed for highway purposes is declared
20 excess and no longer needed for the Department's ~~such~~
21 purposes, and before making the property available for public
22 sale as provided in subsection (a), the Department shall offer
23 that real property as follows:

24 (1) To the person from whom such real property was
25 acquired that still owns and has continuously owned land
26 adjacent to or abutting such real property since the

1 acquisition by the Department, the Department ~~before~~
2 ~~making any disposition of that property~~ shall first offer
3 the property, in writing, for the fair market ~~that~~
4 ~~property to the person from whom such property was~~
5 ~~acquired at the current appraised value of the property.~~
6 If the Department's offer to such a person is accepted, in
7 writing, within 60 days of the date of the written offer,
8 the Department, subject to the written approval of the
9 Governor, is authorized to dispose of such property to
10 that person ~~the person from whom such property was~~
11 ~~acquired upon payment of the appraised value.~~ If the offer
12 is not accepted, in writing, within 60 days of the date of
13 the written offer, all rights under this paragraph shall
14 terminate.

15 (2) If the option in paragraph (1) does not exist or an
16 offer is made and not accepted, or a sale otherwise is not
17 consummated, the Department shall offer, in writing, at
18 the value determined by the Department, the real property
19 declared excess to the local municipality in which the
20 property is situated and located, or, if the property is
21 situated and located in an unincorporated area, to the
22 county and township, if applicable, in which the property
23 is situated and located. If a letter of intent to accept
24 the offer is received by the Department, in writing,
25 within 15 days of the date of the offer, the local
26 governmental entity shall have 45 days from the date on

1 the offer to accept the offer formally by resolution of
2 its governing body. If the offer is formally accepted
3 within 45 days of the date of the written offer, the
4 Department, subject to the written approval of the
5 Governor, is authorized to convey the property to the
6 governing body upon payment of the value stated in the
7 offer and may include a reversion for failure to continue
8 public ownership and use if conveyed for less than fair
9 market value. If a timely letter of intent to accept and a
10 formal acceptance is received from a county and a
11 township, the county shall be given priority. If a letter
12 of intent is not received within 15 days of the offer, all
13 rights under this paragraph shall terminate. If the letter
14 of intent is received within the 15 days, but the formal
15 acceptance is not received within 45 days of the date of
16 the written offer, all rights under this paragraph shall
17 terminate. If the unit of local government does not tender
18 the funds in the full amount of the accepted offer within
19 90 days of the date of the offer, all rights under this
20 paragraph shall terminate. If a county fails to tender the
21 funds in the full amount of the written accepted offer and
22 a township tenders the full amount of a timely accepted
23 offer within 15 days of the county's failure to timely
24 tender, the Department shall sell the land, rights, or
25 property to the township. The Department shall have the
26 right to revoke, in writing, any offer made under this

1 paragraph at any time before the funds in the full amount
2 of the offer are tendered to the Department.

3 (3) If the option in paragraph (1) or (2) does not
4 exist or a sale is not otherwise consummated, the
5 Department shall offer, in writing, at fair market value,
6 the real property declared excess to an adjacent or
7 abutting property owner if the property owner is the only
8 reasonable party as determined by the Department. If the
9 Department's offer is accepted by the property owner, in
10 writing, within 60 days of the date of the written offer,
11 the Department, subject to the written approval of the
12 Governor, is authorized to convey the property to the
13 property owner upon payment of the fair market value. If
14 the offer is not accepted, in writing, within 60 days of
15 the date of the written offer, all rights under this
16 paragraph shall terminate.

17 (d) If the Department enters into or currently has a
18 written contract with another highway authority for the
19 transfer of jurisdiction of any highway or portion thereof,
20 the Department is authorized to convey, subject to the written
21 approval of the Governor, without compensation, any land,
22 dedications, easements, access rights, or any interest in the
23 real estate that it holds to that specific highway or portion
24 thereof to the highway authority that is accepting or has
25 accepted jurisdiction. However, no part of the transferred
26 property can be vacated or disposed of without the approval of

1 the Department, which may require compensation for non-public
2 use.

3 (e) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this Section,
4 if the Department obtains or obtained fee simple title to, or
5 any lesser interest, in any land, right, or other property and
6 must comply with subdivision (f)(3) of Section 6 of Title I of
7 the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460
8 1-8(f)(3)), the Historic Bridge Program established under
9 Title 23, United States Code, Section 144, subsection (o) (23
10 U.S.C. 144(o)), the National Historic Preservation Act (16
11 U.S.C. Sec. 470), the Interagency Wetland Policy Act of 1989,
12 or the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation
13 Act, the Department, subject to the written approval of the
14 Governor and concurrence of the grantee, is authorized to
15 convey the title or interest in the land, right, or other
16 property to another governmental agency, or a not-for-profit
17 organization that will use the property for purposes
18 consistent with the appropriate law.

19 The Department may retain rights to protect the public
20 interest.

21 (Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)