



Rep. Delia C. Ramirez

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1833

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 1833 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic  
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois  
6 is amended by adding Section 605-1057 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-1057 new)

8 Sec. 605-1057. State-designated cultural districts.

9 (a) As used in this Section, "State-designated cultural  
10 district" means a geographical area certified under this  
11 Section that has a distinct, historic, and cultural identity.  
12 Municipalities or 501(c)(3) organizations working on behalf of  
13 a certified geographical area should seek to:

14 (1) Promote a distinct historic and cultural  
15 community.

16 (2) Encourage economic development and supports

1 entrepreneurship in the geographic area and community.

2 (3) Encourage the preservation and development of  
3 historic and culturally significant structures,  
4 traditions, and languages.

5 (4) Foster local cultural development and education.

6 (5) Provide a focal point for celebrating and  
7 strengthening the unique cultural identity of the  
8 community.

9 (6) Promote growth and opportunity without generating  
10 displacement or expanding inequality.

11 (b) Administrative authority. The Department of Commerce  
12 and Economic Opportunity shall establish criteria and  
13 guidelines for State-designated cultural districts by rule in  
14 accordance with qualifying criteria outlined in subsection  
15 (c). In executing its powers and duties under this Section,  
16 the Department shall:

17 (1) establish a competitive application system by  
18 which a community may apply for certification as a  
19 State-designated cultural district;

20 (2) provide technical assistance for State-designated  
21 cultural districts by collaborating with all relevant  
22 offices and grantees of the Department to help them  
23 identify and achieve their goals for cultural  
24 preservation, including, but not limited to, promotional  
25 support of State-designated cultural districts and support  
26 for small businesses looking to access resources;

1           (3) collaborate with other State agencies, units of  
2           local government, community organizations, and private  
3           entities to maximize the benefits of State-designated  
4           cultural districts; and

5           (4) establish an advisory committee to advise the  
6           Department on program rules and the certification process.  
7           The advisory committee shall reflect the diversity of the  
8           State of Illinois, including geographic, racial, and  
9           ethnic diversity. The advisory committee must include:

10           (A) a representative of the Department of Commerce  
11           and Economic Opportunity appointed by the Director;

12           (B) a representative of the Department of  
13           Agriculture appointed by the Director of Agriculture;

14           (C) a representative of the Illinois Housing  
15           Development Authority appointed by the Executive  
16           Director of the Illinois Housing Development  
17           Authority;

18           (d) two members of the House of Representatives  
19           appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
20           Representatives;

21           (E) two members of the Senate appointed by the  
22           President of the Senate; and

23           (F) four community representatives appointed by  
24           the Governor representing diverse racial, ethnic, and  
25           geographic groups not captured in the membership of  
26           the other designees, with the input of community and

1           stakeholder groups.

2           (c) Certification. A geographical area within the State  
3 may be certified as a State-designated cultural district by  
4 applying to the Department for certification. Certification as  
5 a State-designated cultural district shall be for a period of  
6 10 years, after which the district may renew certification  
7 every 5 years. A municipality or 501(c)(3) organization may  
8 apply for certification on behalf of a geographic area. The  
9 applying entity is responsible for complying with reporting  
10 requirements under subsection (f). The Department shall  
11 develop criteria to assess whether an applicant qualifies for  
12 certification under this Section. That criteria must include a  
13 demonstration that the applicant and the community:

14           (1) have been historically impacted and are currently  
15 at risk of losing their cultural identity because of  
16 gentrification, displacement, or the COVID-19 pandemic;

17           (2) can demonstrate a history of economic  
18 disinvestment; and

19           (3) can demonstrate strong community support for the  
20 cultural district designation through active and formal  
21 participation by community organizations and municipal and  
22 regional government agencies or officials.

23           (d) Each applicant shall be encouraged by the Department  
24 to:

25           (1) have development plans that include and prioritize  
26 the preservation of local businesses and retention of

1 existing residents and businesses; and

2 (2) have an education framework in place informed with  
3 a vision of food justice, social justice, community  
4 sustainability, and social equity.

5 (e) The Department shall award no more than 5  
6 State-designated cultural districts every year. At no point  
7 shall the total amount of State-designated cultural districts  
8 be more than 15, unless otherwise directed by the Director of  
9 the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in  
10 consultation with the advisory committee.

11 (f) Within 12 months after being designated a cultural  
12 district, the State-designated cultural district shall submit  
13 a report to the Department detailing its current programs and  
14 goals for the next 4 years of its designation. For each year  
15 thereafter that the district remains a State-designated  
16 cultural district, it shall submit a report to the Department  
17 on the status of the program and future developments of the  
18 district. Any State-designated cultural district that fails to  
19 file a report for 2 consecutive years shall lose its status.

20 (g) This Section is repealed on July 1, 2031."