



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB3219

Introduced 2/17/2023, by Rep. Michael J. Coffey, Jr.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 605/605-419 new

Amends the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Creates the Division on Downstate Economic Development within the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Provides legislative findings and a statement of purpose. Provides that the Division shall plan and coordinate existing State programs designed to aid and stimulate the economic development in downstate communities in specified regions. Sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the Division. Provides that the Division shall be overseen by the Assistant Director. Provides rulemaking authority. Effective immediately.

LRB103 30154 HLH 56578 b

1 AN ACT concerning economic development.

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

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 605-419 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-419 new)

8 Sec. 605-419. Division on Downstate Economic Development.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds that the State is a diverse
10 and vast state made up of different geographic areas and
11 unique economic environments, and there is a need to ensure
12 that the Department is prepared to face each unique challenge
13 with a unique solution. It is the purpose of this Section to
14 recognize that the needs and priorities of the regions outside
15 the State's largest urban, metropolitan area are significant
16 and, indeed, vital to the State's overall success when looking
17 at the economic success of the State. Therefore, there is
18 established within the Department a Division on Downstate
19 Economic Development.

20 (b) The Department shall provide for, staff, and
21 administer a Division on Downstate Economic Development, which
22 shall plan and coordinate existing State programs designed to
23 aid and stimulate the economic development in downstate

1 communities that include the following economic development
2 regions:

3 Northern Stateline Region;

4 Northwest Region;

5 West Central Region;

6 North Central Region;

7 East Central Region;

8 Central Region;

9 Southwest Region;

10 Southeast Region; and

11 Southern Region.

12 (c) To fulfill the purposes set forth in subsection (a),
13 the Department shall assign appropriate duties to the
14 Division, including, but not limited to:

15 (1) Reviewing all current Department programs,
16 offerings, and forms of assistance that exist and are
17 available to downstate communities.

18 (2) Identifying Department functions and
19 operations that need to be housed under the Division
20 on Downstate Economic Development.

21 (3) Recommending any necessary improvements to the
22 manner by which the Department administers existing
23 Department programs, offerings, and forms of
24 assistance to downstate communities.

25 (4) Facilitating and streamlining the functions of
26 the Department in order to improve the Department's

1 interaction with downstate communities.

2 (5) Gathering information concerning any State or
3 Federal program that is designed to revitalize or
4 assist downstate communities in the State and
5 providing this information to public and private
6 entities upon request.

7 (6) Promoting and assisting the development,
8 redevelopment, and revitalization of downstate
9 communities.

10 (7) Promoting the maintenance of jobs and seeking
11 the creation of new job opportunities in downstate
12 communities.

13 (8) Recommending to the General Assembly and the
14 Governor economic policies that may improve the
15 economic climate in downstate communities.

16 (9) Making rules necessary to carry out its
17 responsibilities under this Law.

18 (10) Encouraging new industrial enterprises to
19 locate in downstate communities through (i)
20 educational promotions that point out the
21 opportunities of downstate communities as commercial
22 and industrial fields of opportunity, (ii)
23 solicitation of industrial enterprises, and (iii) to
24 take any actions deemed necessary and proper in order
25 to meet the duties of the Division. The Division,
26 however, shall have no power to require reports from

1 or to regulate any business.

2 (11) Accepting grants, loans, or appropriations
3 from the federal government or the State, or any
4 agency or instrumentality thereof, to be used for the
5 operating expenses of the Division or for any purposes
6 of the Division.

7 (d) If the Department identifies that an existing Office,
8 Division, or Program (under the Department's jurisdiction)
9 performs, plans, or coordinates a function or duty of the
10 Division created under this Section that is hereby
11 established, the Department may take any necessary actions to
12 prevent, to the best of its ability, the duplication of
13 existing Department operations. The Department shall take the
14 necessary actions prior to establishing the Division to use
15 existing Department funds and resources to implement this
16 Section.

17 (e) The Assistant Director shall oversee the
18 implementation and administration of all functions and duties
19 performed by the Division under this Section.

20 (f) The Department shall adopt any rules necessary to
21 implement the provisions of this Section.

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
23 becoming law.