

# SB2840



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB2840

Introduced 1/19/2024, by Sen. Mike Simmons

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/1-23.5 new

Amends the Election Code. Creates the Access to Candidacy and Feasibility of Holding Public Office for Non-Wealthy Persons Task Force. Provides that the purpose of the Task Force is to analyze the financial barriers that exist for non-wealthy candidates who seek to hold public office in this State and for non-wealthy elected officials in the State. Provides that, on or before June 30, 2025, the Task Force shall publish a final report of its findings and recommendations. Sets forth provisions concerning duties, membership, and administrative support. Repeals the provision that creates the Task Force and dissolves the Task Force on July 1, 2026.

LRB103 37719 SPS 67846 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

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

4 Section 5. The Election Code is amended by adding Section  
5 1-23.5 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/1-23.5 new)

7 Sec. 1-23.5. Access to Candidacy and Feasibility of  
8 Holding Public Office for Non-Wealthy Persons Task Force.

9 (a) As used in this Section, "non-wealthy" includes  
10 low-income and moderate-income candidates or public officials  
11 in this State.

12 (b) The Access to Candidacy and Feasibility of Holding  
13 Public Office for Non-Wealthy Persons Task Force is created.  
14 The purpose of the Task Force is to analyze the financial  
15 barriers that exist for non-wealthy candidates who seek to  
16 hold public office in this State and for non-wealthy elected  
17 officials in this State. The Task Force shall have the  
18 following duties:

19 (1) The Task Force shall engage public officials and  
20 candidates for public office at various levels of State  
21 and local government for the purpose of assessing whether  
22 a candidate or public official's income status and overall  
23 wealth gap poses a barrier to running for or holding

1 public office in this State. The Task Force shall consider  
2 the lived experiences of a candidate or public official in  
3 its analysis of barriers for non-wealthy persons.

4 (2) The Task Force shall review the Election Code and  
5 rules adopted under the Code relating to running for and  
6 holding public office to determine how the provisions  
7 relate to the lived experiences of non-wealthy candidates  
8 and public officials.

9 (3) The Task Force shall provide evidence of the  
10 effect the Election Code or rules adopted under the Code  
11 have on non-wealthy candidates or public officials during  
12 candidacy or while holding public office.

13 (4) The Task Force shall make recommendations or  
14 suggestions for changes to the Election Code or rules  
15 adopted under the Code to ease the burdens on non-wealthy  
16 candidates running for public office in this State and  
17 non-wealthy elected officials in this State.

18 (c) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

19 (1) 2 members appointed by the President of the  
20 Senate, including one member of the Senate who identifies  
21 as non-wealthy and one member of the public;

22 (2) 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
23 Representatives, including one member of the House of  
24 Representatives who identifies as non-wealthy and one  
25 member of the public;

26 (3) 2 members appointed by the Minority Leader of the

1 Senate, including one member of the Senate who identifies  
2 as non-wealthy and one member of the public;

3 (4) 2 members appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
4 House of Representatives, including one member of the  
5 House of Representatives who identifies as non-wealthy and  
6 one member of the public;

7 (5) one member with experience in county government,  
8 appointed by the Governor;

9 (6) one member with experience in municipal  
10 government, appointed by the Governor;

11 (7) 2 members with expertise in campaign finance,  
12 appointed by the Governor;

13 (8) one member with expertise in accounting, appointed  
14 by the Governor; and

15 (9) 3 members who understand the constraints a  
16 candidate or public official's personal finances have on  
17 an individual while running for and holding office,  
18 appointed by the Governor.

19 (d) On or before June 30, 2025, the Task Force shall  
20 publish a final report of its findings and recommendations.  
21 The report shall, at a minimum, detail findings and  
22 recommendations related to the duties of the Task Force.

23 (e) Appointments to the Task Force shall be made within 30  
24 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the  
25 103rd General Assembly. Members shall serve without  
26 compensation.

1       (f) The Task Force shall meet at the call of a  
2 co-chairperson at least quarterly to fulfill its duties. At  
3 the first meeting of the Task Force, the Task Force shall elect  
4 one co-chairperson from the members appointed by the Senate  
5 President and one co-chairperson from the members appointed by  
6 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

7       (g) The State Board of Elections shall provide  
8 administrative support for the Task Force.

9       (h) This Section is repealed, and the Task Force is  
10 dissolved, on July 1, 2026.