

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

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 Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transportation Act.

6 Section 5. Findings; purpose. The General Assembly  
7 finds that safe, reliable, and convenient transportation to  
8 and from (i) work and related destinations such as child care  
9 and education, (ii) medical appointments and related  
10 destinations such as a pharmacy, and (iii) ancillary services  
11 necessary to the health, well-being, and independence of the  
12 family such as grocery shopping, adult day services, and  
13 pharmacy related services are extremely important in the  
14 ability to find and retain employment and insure the  
15 continued independence and well-being of all citizens of  
16 Illinois, particularly in the lower income sectors of the  
17 economy. For many people, these transportation needs are not  
18 met by existing mass transit. In a national survey by the  
19 University of Illinois at Chicago of over 500 riders of 23  
20 federally funded community transportation projects under the  
21 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program across the  
22 nation, 68% of riders indicated that they would not be able  
23 to reach their employment without this service. Furthermore,  
24 the national evaluation of the JARC program by the General  
25 Accounting Office illustrates that 65% of all projects have  
26 extended existing fixed routes by schedule or location as  
27 well as created connections to existing services. This  
28 creates a need for innovative transportation to work  
29 strategies that fit within local circumstances in Illinois.  
30 Many localities around Illinois do not have the resources or  
31 the expertise to develop and support innovative

1 transportation options. Localities need access to technical  
2 assistance both in designing programs and in accessing  
3 various sources of State and federal funds. Illinois also  
4 leaves substantial federal transportation funds unclaimed  
5 because of the failure to put forward projects to use the  
6 funds. Thus, Illinois would benefit from an Interagency  
7 Coordinating Committee to set priorities for improving access  
8 to transportation for the transportation disadvantaged. The  
9 General Accounting Office has found in its evaluation that  
10 interagency collaboration has informed transit agencies of  
11 how to better serve low-income communities by knowing where  
12 jobs are located and a system of supports are found. Illinois  
13 would also benefit from a unified State process to apply for  
14 federal transportation assistance for innovative  
15 transportation to work projects and strategies and for  
16 identifying the matching funds necessary to access that  
17 federal assistance. The purpose of this Act is to establish  
18 the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transportation.

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

20 (1) "Agency" means an official, commission, authority,  
21 council, department, committee, division, bureau, board, or  
22 any other unit or entity of the State, a municipality, a  
23 county, or other local governing body or a private  
24 not-for-profit transportation service providing agency.

25 (2) "Committee" means the Illinois Coordinating  
26 Committee on Transportation.

27 (3) "Coordination" means the arrangement for the  
28 provision of transportation services to the transportation  
29 disadvantaged in a manner that is cost-effective, efficient,  
30 and reduces fragmentation and duplication of services.

31 (4) "Transportation disadvantaged" means those persons  
32 who, because of physical or mental disability, income status,  
33 age, location of residence, or other reasons are unable to

1 transport themselves or to purchase affordable transportation  
2 and are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to  
3 health care, employment, education, shopping, social  
4 activities, or other life-sustaining activities.

5 Section 15. Committee. The Illinois Coordinating  
6 Committee on Transportation is created and shall consist of  
7 the following members:

8 (1) The Governor or his or her designee.

9 (2) The Secretary of Transportation or his or her  
10 designee.

11 (3) The Secretary of Human Services or his or her  
12 designee.

13 (4) The Director of Aging or his or her designee.

14 (5) The Director of Public Aid or his or her designee.

15 (6) The Director of Commerce and Community Affairs or  
16 his or her designee.

17 (7) A representative of the Illinois Rural Transit  
18 Assistance Center.

19 (8) A person who is a member of a recognized statewide  
20 organization representing older residents of Illinois.

21 (9) A representative of centers for independent living.

22 (10) A representative of the Illinois Public  
23 Transportation Association.

24 (11) A representative of an existing transportation  
25 system that coordinates and provides transit services in a  
26 multi-county area for the Department of Transportation,  
27 Department of Human Services, Department of Commerce and  
28 Community Affairs, or Department on Aging.

29 (12) A representative of a statewide organization of  
30 rehabilitation facilities or other providers of services for  
31 persons with one or more disabilities.

32 (13) A representative of a community based organization.

33 (14) A representative of the Department of Public

1 Health.

2 (15) A representative of the Rural Partners.

3 (16) The Director of Employment Security or his or her  
4 designee.

5 (17) A representative of a state-wide business  
6 association.

7 (18) A representative of the Illinois Council on  
8 Developmental Disabilities.

9 The Governor shall appoint the members of the Committee  
10 other than those named in paragraphs (1) through (6) and  
11 paragraph (16) of this Section. The Governor or his or her  
12 designee shall serve as chairperson of the Committee and  
13 shall convene the meetings of the Committee. The Secretary of  
14 Transportation and a representative of a community based  
15 organization involved in transportation or their designees,  
16 shall serve as co-vice-chairpersons and shall be responsible  
17 for staff support for the committee.

18 Section 20. Duties of Committee. The Committee shall  
19 encourage the coordination of public and private  
20 transportation services, with priority given to services  
21 directed toward those populations who are currently not  
22 served or who are underserved by existing public transit.

23 The Committee shall seek innovative approaches to  
24 providing and funding local transportation services and offer  
25 their expertise to communities statewide. Specifically, the  
26 Committee shall:

27 (1) Coordinate a State process within federal guidelines  
28 to facilitate coordination of community-based transportation  
29 programs. This process should include: developing objectives  
30 for providing essential transportation services to the  
31 transportation disadvantaged; providing technical assistance  
32 to communities that are addressing transportation gaps that  
33 affect low-income populations; developing a process for

1 requesting federal funds such as the Job Access and Reverse  
2 Commute (JARC) Grant program that is based on input from  
3 communities statewide; assisting communities in identifying  
4 funds from other available sources for projects that are not  
5 an eligible use of JARC funds; and developing a plan to  
6 identify and recruit potential stakeholders in future  
7 community transportation initiatives to the committee.

8 (2) Develop goals and objectives to reduce duplication  
9 of services and achieve coverage that is as complete as  
10 possible.

11 (3) Serve as a clearinghouse for information about  
12 funding sources and innovations in serving the transportation  
13 disadvantaged.

14 (4) Submit a report, not later than February 1, 2006, to  
15 the Governor and the General Assembly that outlines the  
16 progress made by the Committee in performing its duties set  
17 forth in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this Section and makes  
18 recommendations for statutory and regulatory changes to  
19 promote coordination.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
21 becoming law.