



**93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2003 and 2004**

**HB4640**

Introduced 02/04/04, by Wyvetter H. Younge

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

New Act

Creates the Community Self-Revitalization Act. Provides that a municipality, county, or any combination of municipalities and counties that are certified as an economically distressed community by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, in order to receive the assistance as provided under the Act, may appoint a Board of Economic Advisors. Provides that the Board shall consist of 12 members of the community, appointed by the corporate authorities of the community, representing the perspective of 12 sectors vital to community redevelopment, including families, businesses, and government. Provides that the Board shall create a 3-year to 5-year revitalization plan for the community containing distinct, measurable objectives for revitalization. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall, subject to appropriation, make grants to communities that create a Board of Economic Advisors under the Act for the operational expenses of the Board. Provides that Boards shall seek funding sources to enhance economic development. Further provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall advise Boards of available funding and assist Boards in securing this funding. Effective immediately.

LRB093 18960 RCE 44695 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

**A BILL FOR**

1 AN ACT concerning community revitalization.

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 Community Self-Revitalization Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and purpose.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) There is a great need for economic revitalization  
9 in many communities throughout this State.

10 (2) Each community has valuable resources at its  
11 fingertips that can be tapped in the revitalization  
12 process.

13 (3) With adequate support and assistance from the State  
14 and other resources, each community can participate in and  
15 shepherd its own economic renewal.

16 (4) Successful redevelopment plans are based on policy  
17 that is responsive to the existing composition and  
18 character of the economically distressed community and  
19 that allows and compels the community to participate in the  
20 redevelopment planning process.

21 (5) A successful redevelopment initiative creates and  
22 maintains a capable and adaptable workforce, has access to  
23 capital, has a sound fiscal base, has adequate  
24 infrastructure, has well-managed natural resources, and  
25 has an attractive quality of life.

26 (b) It is the purpose of this legislation to provide a  
27 mechanism for an economically distressed community to use in  
28 its efforts to revitalize the community.

29 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Section:

30 "Community" means a municipality, a county with respect to  
31 the unincorporated areas of a county, and any combination of

1 municipalities and counties acting jointly.

2 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic  
3 Opportunity.

4 "Economically distressed community" means any community  
5 that is certified by the Department as being in the highest 10%  
6 of all communities in the State in its rate of unemployment,  
7 its poverty rate, and the rate of bankruptcy petitions filed.

8 Section 15. Certification; Board of Economic Advisors.

9 (a) In order to receive the assistance as provided in this  
10 Act, a community shall first, by ordinance passed by its  
11 corporate authorities, request that the Department certify  
12 that it is an economically distressed community. The community  
13 must submit a certified copy of the ordinance to the  
14 Department. After review of the ordinance, if the Department  
15 determines that the community meets the requirements for  
16 certification, the Department shall certify the community as an  
17 economically distressed community.

18 (b) A community that is certified by the Department as an  
19 economically distressed community may appoint a Board of  
20 Economic Advisors to create and implement a revitalization plan  
21 for the community. The Board shall consist of 12 members of the  
22 community, appointed by the mayor or the presiding officer of  
23 the county or jointly by the presiding officers of each  
24 municipality and county that have joined to form a community  
25 for the purposes of this Act. The Board members shall be  
26 appointed from the 12 sectors vital to community redevelopment  
27 as follows:

28 (1) A member representing households and families.

29 (2) A member representing religious organizations.

30 (3) A member representing educational institutions.

31 (4) A member representing daycare centers, care  
32 centers for the handicapped, and care centers for the  
33 disadvantaged.

34 (5) A member representing community based  
35 organizations such as neighborhood improvement

1 associations.

2 (6) A member representing federal and State employment  
3 service systems, skill training centers, and placement  
4 referrals.

5 (7) A member representing Masonic organizations,  
6 fraternities, sororities, and social clubs.

7 (8) A member representing hospitals, nursing homes,  
8 senior citizens, public health agencies, and funeral  
9 homes.

10 (9) A member representing organized sports, parks,  
11 parties, and games of chance.

12 (10) A member representing political parties, clubs,  
13 and affiliations, and election related matters concerning  
14 voter education and participation.

15 (11) A member representing the cultural aspects of the  
16 community, including cultural events, lifestyles,  
17 languages, music, visual and performing arts, and  
18 literature.

19 (12) A member representing police and fire protection  
20 agencies, prisons, weapons systems, and the military  
21 industrial complex.

22 The Board shall meet initially within 30 days of its  
23 appointment, shall select one member as chairperson at its  
24 initial meeting, and shall thereafter meet at the call of the  
25 chairperson. Members of the Board shall serve without  
26 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and  
27 necessary expenses from funds available for that purpose.

28 (b) The Board shall create a 3-year to 5-year  
29 revitalization plan for the community. The plan shall contain  
30 distinct, measurable objectives for revitalization. The  
31 objectives shall be used to guide ongoing implementation of the  
32 plan and to measure progress during the 3-year to 5-year  
33 period. The Board shall work in a dynamic manner defining goals  
34 for the community based on the strengths and weaknesses of the  
35 individual sectors of the community as presented by each member  
36 of the Board. The Board shall meet periodically and revise the

1 plan in light of the input from each member of the Board  
2 concerning his or her respective sector of expertise. The  
3 process shall be a community driven revitalization process,  
4 with community-specific data determining the direction and  
5 scope of the revitalization.

6 Section 20. Action by the Board.

7 (a) Organize. The Board shall first assess the needs and  
8 the resources of the community operating from the basic premise  
9 that the family unit is the primary unit of community and that  
10 the demand for goods and services from this residential sector  
11 is the main source of recovery and growth for the redevelopment  
12 of a community. The Board shall inventory community assets,  
13 including the condition of the family with respect to the role  
14 of the family as workers, consumers, and investors. The Board  
15 shall inventory the type and viability of businesses and  
16 industries currently in the community. In compiling the  
17 inventory, the Board shall rely on the input of each Board  
18 member with respect to his or her expertise in a given sector  
19 of the revitalization plan.

20 (b) Revitalize. In implementing the revitalization plan,  
21 the Board shall focus on and build from existing resources in  
22 the community, growing existing businesses rather than luring  
23 business into the community from the outside. The Board shall  
24 also focus on the residents themselves rather than jobs. The  
25 Board shall promote investment in training residents in areas  
26 that will lead to employment and in turn will bring revenue  
27 into the community.

28 (c) Mobilize. The Board shall engage in the dynamic process  
29 of community self-revitalization through a continuous  
30 reassessment of the needs of the community in the  
31 revitalization process. As each goal of the 3-year to 5-year  
32 plan is achieved, the Board shall draw from the resources of  
33 its members to establish new goals and implement new strategies  
34 employing the lessons learned in the earlier stages of  
35 revitalization.

1 (d) Advise. The Board shall Act as the liaison between the  
2 community and the local, county, and State Government. The  
3 Board shall make use of the resources of these governmental  
4 entities and shall provide counsel to each of these bodies with  
5 respect to economic development.

6 The Board shall also act as a liaison between private  
7 business entities located in the community and the community  
8 itself. The Board shall offer advice and assistance to these  
9 entities when requested and provide incentives and support,  
10 both economic and otherwise, to facilitate expansion and  
11 further investment in the community by the businesses.

12 The Board shall annually submit a report to the General  
13 Assembly and the Governor summarizing the accomplishments of  
14 the community concerning revitalization and the goals of the  
15 community for future revitalization.

16 Section 25. Funding sources.

17 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall make  
18 grants to communities that are certified as economically  
19 distressed communities under this Act and that create a Board  
20 of Economic Advisors under this Act for the operational  
21 expenses of the Board. The procedures for grant application  
22 shall be established by the Department by rule.

23 (b) The Board, as a vital part of its function, shall seek  
24 funding sources to enhance economic development. The Board  
25 shall seek funding from the local, State, and federal  
26 government as well as from private funding sources, whether in  
27 the form of grants, loans, or otherwise. The Department shall  
28 advise the Boards of Economic Advisors created under this Act  
29 of all available sources of funding for economic development  
30 that it is aware of and shall assist the Boards in securing  
31 this funding.

32 (c) To the extent that there is a gap in funding for  
33 economic development, the Board shall recommend possible  
34 solutions to be undertaken by the State in addressing this  
35 issue to fill the funding gap.

1           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
2    becoming law.