

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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 Mississippi River Coordinating Council Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative Purpose. The Mississippi River is
7 the primary water artery for the economic development of the
8 United States. The restoration and conservation of the
9 Mississippi River and its tributaries is in the economic and
10 ecological interest of the citizens of this State. It is
11 further in the public interest to establish, implement and
12 monitor water management projects run by local, state, federal
13 and not-for-profit entities.

14 Section 10. Mississippi River Coordinating Council.

15 (a) There is established the Mississippi River
16 Coordinating Council (Council), consisting of 13 voting
17 members to be appointed by the Governor. One member shall be
18 the Lieutenant Governor who shall serve as a voting member and
19 as chairperson of the Council. The agency members of the
20 Council shall include the Directors, or their designees, of the
21 following: the Department of Agriculture, the Department of
22 Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Environmental
23 Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, and the
24 Department of Transportation. In addition, the Council shall
25 include one member representing Soil and Water Conservation
26 Districts located in the proximity of the Mississippi River and
27 its tributaries, and 6 members representing local communities,
28 not-for-profit organizations working to protect the
29 Mississippi River and its tributaries, businesses,
30 agriculture, recreation, conservation, and the environment.

31 (b) The Governor may appoint, as ex-officio members,

1 individuals representing the interests of the states who border
2 the Mississippi River and individuals representing federal
3 agencies.

4 (c) Members of the Council shall serve 2-year terms, except
5 that of the initial appointments, 5 members shall be appointed
6 to serve 3-year terms and 4 members to serve one-year terms.

7 (d) The Council shall meet at least quarterly.

8 (e) The Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall be
9 responsible for the operations of the Council, including,
10 without limitation, funding and oversight of the Council's
11 activities. The Office may reimburse members of the Council for
12 travel expenses.

13 (f) This Section is subject to the provisions of Section
14 405-500 of the Department of Central Management Services Law.

15 Section 15. Duties of the Council. The Council shall:

16 (1) periodically review activities and programs
17 administered by State and federal agencies that directly
18 impact the Mississippi River and its tributaries;

19 (2) work with local communities and organizations to
20 encourage partnerships that enhance awareness and
21 capabilities to address watershed and water resource
22 concerns and to encourage strategies that protect,
23 restore, and expand critical habitats and soil
24 conservation and water quality practices;

25 (3) work with State and federal agencies to optimize
26 the expenditure of funds affecting the Mississippi River
27 and its tributaries;

28 (4) advise and make recommendations to the Governor and
29 State agencies on ways to better coordinate the expenditure
30 of appropriated funds affecting the Mississippi River and
31 its tributaries;

32 (5) encourage local communities to develop water
33 management plans to address stormwater, erosion, flooding,
34 sedimentation, and pollution problems and encourage
35 projects for the natural conveyance and storage of

1 floodwaters, the enhancement of wildlife habitat and
2 outdoor recreation opportunities, the recovery,
3 management, and conservation of the Mississippi River and
4 its tributaries, the preservation of farmland, prairies,
5 and forests, and the use of measurable economic development
6 efforts that are compatible with the ecological health of
7 the State; and

8 (6) help identify possible sources of additional
9 funding for Mississippi River water management projects.

10 Section 20. Agency duties. State agencies represented on
11 the Council shall provide to the Council, on request,
12 information concerning agency programs, data, and activities
13 that impact the restoration and preservation of the Mississippi
14 River and its tributaries.