

1 AN ACT concerning fatherhood.

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 Council on Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2008.

6 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to promote
7 the recognition of the importance of the participation of both
8 parents in the lives of their children. While social policy and
9 practice have often focused on the difficulties of raising a
10 child in a single parent family and have often created barriers
11 to the involvement of both parents in their child's life, the
12 purpose of this Act is to promote a social policy and practice
13 that values the contribution that each parent brings to the
14 family unit.

15 Section 10. Fatherhood initiative.

16 (a) The purpose of this Act shall be implemented through a
17 fatherhood initiative located within the Department of Human
18 Services and directed by the Council on Responsible Fatherhood
19 created by this Act.

20 (b) The goals of the fatherhood initiative are to increase
21 the awareness of the problems created when a child grows up
22 without the presence of a responsible father; to identify

1 obstacles that impede or prevent the involvement of responsible
2 fathers in the lives of their children; to identify strategies
3 that are successful in overcoming identified obstacles and in
4 encouraging responsible fatherhood; and to facilitate the
5 transition from current policies, perceptions, and practices
6 that adversely affect the participation of fathers in their
7 children's lives to policies, perceptions, and practices that
8 promote the contributions of responsible fathers. The
9 fatherhood initiative must promote positive interaction
10 between fathers and their children. While the emphasis of the
11 program must be on the population of children whose families
12 have received or are receiving public assistance, the program
13 may not exclude other populations of children for which the
14 program is appropriate.

15 (c) The fatherhood initiative must include, but is not
16 limited to, the following:

17 (1) The promotion of public education concerning the
18 financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood.

19 (2) The provision of assistance to men in preparing for
20 the legal, financial, and emotional responsibilities of
21 fatherhood.

22 (3) The promotion of the establishment of paternity
23 upon the birth of a child.

24 (4) The encouragement of fathers in fostering an
25 emotional connection to children and providing financial
26 support to children.

1 (5) The establishment of support mechanisms for
2 fathers developing and maintaining relationships with
3 their children.

4 (6) The identification and promotion of methods that
5 reduce the negative outcomes experienced by children
6 affected by divorce, separation, and disputes concerning
7 custody and visitation.

8 (7) The integration of State and local services
9 available to families.

10 Section 15. Council on Responsible Fatherhood.

11 (a) The Council on Responsible Fatherhood is created to
12 carry out the purposes, goals, and initiatives of this Act. The
13 Council consists of 21 members appointed by the Governor.
14 Members appointed by the Governor must be chosen on the basis
15 of their interest in and experience with children and families.
16 Members of the Council shall be appointed for 2-year terms,
17 except for an appointment to fill an unexpired term, in which
18 event the appointment shall be for the remainder of the
19 unexpired term. In addition, the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of
21 Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Minority
22 Leader of the Senate shall each appoint one ex officio,
23 non-voting member. The Council must choose one member of the
24 Council to be the Chairperson. A majority of the members
25 appointed by the Governor constitutes a quorum. Members shall

1 serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for their
2 actual expenses in carrying out their duties as members of the
3 Council. The Council shall meet at least quarterly, and the
4 Chairperson and Department of Human Services may convene the
5 Council at any time. Subject to appropriation, the Department
6 of Human Services shall provide support to the Council.

7 (b) The Council has the following duties:

8 (1) To develop a comprehensive plan that promotes the
9 positive involvement of fathers in their children's lives.

10 (2) To evaluate State programs, government policies,
11 and community initiatives related to fatherhood and to make
12 recommendations regarding those programs, policies, and
13 initiatives to the Governor and the General Assembly.

14 (3) To convene a statewide symposium in order to
15 discuss and resolve issues related to responsible
16 fatherhood and the importance of the participation of both
17 parents in their children's lives.

18 (4) Subject to appropriation, to develop criteria for
19 and to issue requests for proposals for grants for
20 responsible fatherhood projects and activities related to
21 responsible fatherhood projects that are approved by the
22 Council.

23 (5) To receive grants, contributions, and other funds
24 for the purpose of projects and activities related to
25 responsible fatherhood.

26 (6) To submit a report, on or before January 1 of each

1 year, to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning
2 its findings and recommendations.

3 Section 20. Responsible Fathers Fund. Grants,
4 contributions, and other funds received by the Council on
5 Responsible Fatherhood must be deposited into the Responsible
6 Fathers Fund, a special fund created in the State treasury,
7 and, subject to appropriation and as directed by the Department
8 of Human Services, may be expended for the purposes of this
9 Act. In addition, upon the creation of the Responsible Fathers
10 Fund, the State Comptroller shall direct and the State
11 Treasurer shall transfer any moneys remaining in the
12 Responsible Fatherhood Fund into the Responsible Fathers Fund.
13 Upon completion of the transfer, the Responsible Fatherhood
14 Fund shall be dissolved.

15 Section 25. Repeal. This Act is repealed on July 1, 2010.

16 Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
17 Section 5.701 as follows:

18 (30 ILCS 105/5.701 new)

19 Sec. 5.701. The Responsible Fathers Fund.

20 (30 ILCS 105/5.608 rep.)

21 Section 95. The State Finance Act is amended by repealing

1 Section 5.608.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law, except that Section 95 takes effect 30 days after
4 becoming law.