

1 AN ACT concerning government.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois African-American Family Commission
5 Act is amended by changing Sections 5, 15, 20, and 25 as
6 follows:

7 (20 ILCS 3903/5)

8 Sec. 5. Legislative findings. It is the policy of this
9 State to promote family preservation and to preserve and
10 strengthen families.

11 (a) Over 12 million people live in Illinois.
12 African-Americans represent 15% of the population and 26% of
13 the residents living in Cook County. Despite some progress over
14 the last few decades, African-Americans in Illinois continue to
15 lag behind other racial groups relative to indicators of
16 well-being in education, employment, income, and health.
17 According to the 2000 U.S. Census, just 26% of the
18 African-American population over 25 years of age in Illinois
19 completed their high school education; 6% held an associate's
20 degree; less than 10% (9%) held a bachelor's degree; less than
21 5% (3%) held a master's degree; and less than one percent held
22 either a professional (.8%) or doctoral (.4%) degree.

23 These levels of education attainment reflect more

1 fundamental problems with retaining African-Americans in
2 school. The Illinois State Board of Education reported that for
3 the 2001-2002 school year, 36,373, or 6%, of students enrolled
4 in public high schools dropped out. Thirty-nine percent of
5 these students were African-Americans; 38% were White; 21% were
6 Hispanic; and 2% were classified as Other.

7 Although African-Americans make up 18% of the high school
8 population, they are disproportionately represented in the
9 number of students who are suspended and expelled. In the
10 2001-2002 school year, 29,068 students were suspended from
11 school. Forty-seven percent were White, 37% were
12 African-American, 14% were Hispanic, and 1% were classified as
13 Other. In regards to expulsions Statewide, the total number of
14 high school students expelled was 1,651. Forty-three percent
15 were African-American, 41% were White, 14% were Hispanic, and
16 2% were classified as Other. Within Chicago public schools, 448
17 students were expelled. Seventy-seven of these students were
18 African-American; 27% were White; 14% were Hispanic; and 4%
19 were classified as Other. The fact that African-Americans are
20 more likely to be suspended or expelled from school also
21 contributes to the high dropout rate among African-American
22 high school students.

23 In addition to educational challenges, African-Americans
24 face challenges in the areas of employment and income. In the
25 year 2000, the unemployment rate for African-Americans age 16
26 years or older was 15% compared to only 6% for the total

1 Illinois population. Moreover, the median household income of
2 African-Americans in Illinois was \$31,699 compared to \$46,590
3 for the total Illinois population, and the percentage of
4 African-American families below the poverty level in Illinois
5 was 26% percent in 1999 compared to 10.7% for the total
6 Illinois population in that same year.

7 Indicators of child welfare and criminal justice reveal
8 still more challenges that African-American families face in
9 Illinois. In 2000, African-American children represented 18%
10 of children 18 years of age and under, but comprised 73% of
11 children in substitute care. African-Americans are also
12 overrepresented in the criminal justice population. Of the
13 total Illinois adult inmate population in the year 2000, 65%
14 were African-American. During this same time period,
15 African-American youth represented 58% of the juvenile inmate
16 population in Illinois.

17 While the leading causes of death among African-Americans
18 are the same as those for the general population in Illinois,
19 African-Americans have a higher rate of death per 100,000
20 residents. The rate of overall deaths per 100,000 residents
21 among African-Americans in the year 2000 was 1,181; 847 for
22 Whites; and 411 for those classified as Other. The rate of
23 cancer-related deaths per 100,000 residents by racial or ethnic
24 groups in 2000 was: 278 African-Americans; 206 Whites; and 110
25 of those classified as Other. The rate of diabetes-related
26 deaths per 100,000 residents among African-Americans in 2000

1 was 41 compared to 23 for Whites and 13 for those classified as
2 Other. The rate of deaths per 100,000 residents by heart
3 disease among African-Americans in 2000 was 352 compared to 257
4 for Whites and 120 for those classified as Other. The rate of
5 deaths per 100,000 residents by stroke among African-Americans
6 in 2000 was 75; 60 for Whites; and 35 for those classified as
7 Other.

8 African-Americans had higher rates of smoking and obesity
9 than other racial groups in Illinois in 2001. African-Americans
10 accounted for more of the new adult/adolescent AIDS cases,
11 cumulative adult/adolescent AIDS cases, and number of people
12 living with AIDS than other racial groups in Illinois in the
13 year 2002. Still, 23% of uninsured persons in Illinois are
14 African-American.

15 (b) The Illinois African-American Family Commission
16 continues to be an essential key to promoting the preservation
17 and strengthening of families. As of the effective date of this
18 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly, just under 13
19 million people live in Illinois. African-Americans represent
20 15% of the population and 25% of the residents living in Cook
21 County. Despite some progress over the last few decades,
22 African-Americans in Illinois continue to lag behind other
23 racial groups relative to indicators of well-being in
24 education, employment, income, and health. According to the
25 2010 federal decennial census: just 28% of the African-American
26 population over 25 years of age in Illinois completed their

1 high school education; 36% had some college or an associate's
2 degree; less than 12% held a bachelor's degree; less than 8%
3 held either a graduate or professional degree.

4 These levels of education attainment reflect more
5 fundamental problems with retaining African-Americans in
6 school. The State Board of Education reported that for the
7 2010-2011 school year, 18,210, or 2.77%, of students enrolled
8 in public high schools dropped out. 39.3% of these students
9 were African-Americans; 32.6% were White; 24.2% were Hispanic;
10 and 2% were classified as Other.

11 Although African-Americans make up 20% of the high school
12 population, they are disproportionately represented in the
13 number of students who are suspended and expelled. In the
14 2011-2012 school year, 29,928 students were suspended from
15 school. 36% were White, 34% were African-American, 26% were
16 Hispanic, and 4% were classified as Other. With regard to
17 expulsions statewide, the total number of high school students
18 expelled was 982. 37% were African-American, 41% were White,
19 21% were Hispanic, and 2% were classified as Other. Within
20 Chicago public schools, 294 students were expelled. 80% of
21 these students were African-American; none were White; 17% were
22 Hispanic; and 3% were classified as Other. The fact that
23 African-Americans are more likely to be suspended or expelled
24 from school also contributes to the high dropout rate among
25 African-American high school students.

26 In addition to educational challenges, African-Americans

1 face challenges in the areas of employment and income. In the
2 year 2010, the unemployment rate for African-Americans age 16
3 years or older was 16% compared to only 9% for the total
4 Illinois population. Moreover, the median household income of
5 African-Americans in Illinois was \$34,874 compared to \$60,433
6 for the total Illinois population, and the percentage of
7 African-American families below the poverty level in Illinois
8 was 32% percent in 2012 compared to 15% for the total Illinois
9 population in that same year.

10 Indicators of child welfare and criminal justice reveal
11 still more challenges that African-American families face in
12 Illinois. In 2010, African-American children represented 14%
13 of children 18 years of age and under, but comprised 56% of
14 children in substitute care. African-Americans are also
15 overrepresented in the criminal justice population. Of the
16 total Illinois adult inmate population in the year 2012, 57%
17 were African-American. During this same time period,
18 African-American youth represented 66% of the juvenile inmate
19 population in Illinois.

20 While the leading causes of death among African-Americans
21 are the same as those for the general population in Illinois,
22 African-Americans have a higher rate of death per 100,000
23 residents. The rate of overall deaths per 100,000 residents
24 among African-Americans in the year 2010 was 898; 741 for
25 Whites; and 458 for those classified as Other. The rate of
26 cancer-related deaths per 100,000 residents by racial or ethnic

1 groups in 2010 was 216 for African-Americans; 179 for Whites;
2 and 124 for those classified as Other. The rate of
3 diabetes-related deaths per 100,000 residents among
4 African-Americans in 2010 was 114 compared to 66 for Whites and
5 75 for those classified as Other. The rate of deaths per
6 100,000 residents by heart disease among African-Americans in
7 2010 was 232 compared to 179 for Whites and 121 for those
8 classified as Other. The rate of deaths per 100,000 residents
9 by stroke among African-Americans in 2010 was 108; 73 for
10 Whites; and 56 for those classified as Other.

11 African-Americans had higher rates of smoking and obesity
12 than other racial groups in Illinois in 2013. African-Americans
13 accounted for more of the new adult/adolescent AIDS cases,
14 cumulative adult/adolescent AIDS cases, and number of people
15 living with AIDS than other racial groups in Illinois in the
16 year 2013. Still, 24% of uninsured persons in Illinois are
17 African-American.

18 (c) These huge disparities in education, employment,
19 income, child welfare, criminal justice, and health
20 demonstrate the tremendous challenges facing the
21 African-American family in Illinois. These challenges are
22 severe. There is a need for government, child and family
23 advocates, and other key stakeholders to create and implement
24 public policies to address the health and social crises facing
25 African-American families. The development of given solutions
26 clearly transcends any one State agency and requires a

1 coordinated effort. The Illinois African-American Family
2 Commission shall assist State agencies with this task.

3 The African-American Family Commission was created in
4 October 1994 by Executive Order to assist the Illinois
5 Department of Children and Family Services in developing and
6 implementing programs and public policies that affect the
7 State's child welfare system. The Commission has a proven track
8 record of bringing State agencies, community providers, and
9 consumers together to address child welfare issues. The ability
10 of the Commission to address the above-mentioned health issues,
11 community factors, and the personal well-being of
12 African-American families and children has been limited due to
13 the Executive Order's focus on child welfare. It is apparent
14 that broader issues of health, mental health, criminal justice,
15 education, and economic development also directly affect the
16 health and well-being of African-American families and
17 children. Accordingly, the role of the Illinois
18 African-American Family Commission is hereby expanded to
19 encompass working relationships with every department, agency,
20 and commission within State government if any of its activities
21 impact African-American children and families. The focus of the
22 Commission is hereby restructured and shall exist by
23 legislative mandate to engage State agencies in its efforts to
24 preserve and strengthen African-American families.

25 (Source: P.A. 93-867, eff. 8-5-04.)

1 (20 ILCS 3903/15)

2 Sec. 15. Purpose and objectives.

3 (a) The purpose of the Illinois African-American Family
4 Commission is to advise the Governor and General Assembly, as
5 well as work directly with State agencies, to improve and
6 expand existing policies, services, programs, and
7 opportunities for African-American families. The Illinois
8 African-American Family Commission shall guide the efforts of
9 and collaborate with State agencies, including: the Department
10 on Aging, the Department of Children and Family Services, the
11 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the
12 Department of Corrections, the Department of Human Services,
13 the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the
14 Department of Public Health, the Department of Transportation,
15 the Department of Employment Security, and others. This shall
16 be achieved primarily by: ~~to improve and expand existing human~~
17 ~~services and educational and community development programs~~
18 ~~for African Americans. This will be achieved by:~~

19 (1) Monitoring and commenting on existing and proposed
20 legislation and programs designed to address the needs of
21 African-Americans in Illinois;

22 (2) Assisting State agencies in developing programs,
23 services, public policies, and research strategies that
24 will expand and enhance the social and economic well-being
25 of African-American children and families; ~~and~~

26 (3) Facilitating the participation of and

1 representation of African-Americans in the development,
2 implementation, and planning of policies, programs, and
3 ~~community-based services; and.~~

4 (4) Promoting research efforts to document the impact
5 of policies and programs on African-American families.

6 The work of the Illinois African-American Family
7 Commission shall include the use of existing reports, research
8 and planning efforts, procedures, and programs.

9 (Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)

10 (20 ILCS 3903/20)

11 Sec. 20. Appointment; terms. The Illinois African-American
12 Family Commission shall be comprised of 15 members.

13 For those seats on the Commission with terms that expire in
14 2015, and for subsequent appointments to those seats, the
15 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of
16 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
17 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall each
18 appoint one member to the Commission.

19 For those seats on the Commission with terms that expire in
20 2016, and for subsequent appointments to those seats, the
21 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of
22 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
23 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall each
24 appoint one member to the Commission.

25 For those seats on the Commission with terms that expire in

1 2017, and for subsequent appointments to those seats, the
2 Governor shall appoint 5 members to the Commission ~~who shall be~~
3 ~~appointed by the Governor.~~

4 Each member shall have a working knowledge of human
5 services, community development, and economic public policies
6 in Illinois. The Governor shall appoint the chairperson or
7 chairpersons.

8 The members shall reflect regional representation to
9 ensure that the needs of African-American families and children
10 throughout the State of Illinois are met. The members shall be
11 selected from a variety of disciplines. They shall be
12 representative of a partnership and collaborative effort
13 between public and private agencies, the business sector, and
14 community-based human services organizations.

15 Members shall serve 3-year terms, except in the case of
16 initial appointments. One-third of initially appointed
17 members, as determined by lot, shall be appointed to 1-year
18 terms; 1/3 shall be appointed to 2-year terms; and 1/3 shall be
19 appointed to 3-year terms, so that the terms are staggered.
20 Members will serve without compensation, but shall be
21 reimbursed for Commission-related expenses.

22 The Department on Aging, the Department of Children and
23 Family Services, the Department of Commerce and Economic
24 Opportunity, the Department of Corrections, the Department of
25 Human Services, the Department of Healthcare and Family
26 Services, the Department of Public Health, the State Board of

1 Education, the Board of Higher Education, the Illinois
2 Community College Board, the Department of Human Rights, the
3 Capital Development Board, the Department of Labor, and the
4 Department of Transportation shall each appoint a liaison to
5 serve ex-officio on the Commission. The Office of the Governor,
6 in cooperation with the State agencies appointing liaisons to
7 the Commission under this Section, shall provide
8 administrative support to the Commission.

9 (Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)

10 (20 ILCS 3903/25)

11 Sec. 25. Funding. The African-American Family Commission
12 may ~~shall~~ receive funding through appropriations available for
13 its purposes made to the Department on Aging, the Department of
14 Children and Family Services, the Department of Commerce and
15 Economic Opportunity, the Department of Corrections, the
16 Department of Human Services, the Department of Healthcare and
17 Family Services (formerly Department of Public Aid), the
18 Department of Public Health, the State Board of Education, the
19 Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College
20 Board, the Department of Human Rights, the Capital Development
21 Board, the Department of Labor, and the Department of
22 Transportation. Beginning on July 1, 2014, and every July 1
23 thereafter, the funding allocation for the Commission shall be
24 no less than \$500,000. The Commission may also receive and
25 expend funding from federal and private sources, including

1 gifts, donations, and private grants.

2 (Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
4 1, 2015.