



Rep. Kenneth Dunkin

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 121

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 121 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

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

1 According to the 2000 U.S. Census, just 26% of the  
2 African-American population over 25 years of age in Illinois  
3 completed their high school education; 6% held an associate's  
4 degree; less than 10% (9%) held a bachelor's degree; less than  
5 5% (3%) held a master's degree; and less than one percent held  
6 either a professional (.8%) or doctoral (.4%) degree.

7 These levels of education attainment reflect more  
8 fundamental problems with retaining African-Americans in  
9 school. The Illinois State Board of Education reported that for  
10 the 2001-2002 school year, 36,373, or 6%, of students enrolled  
11 in public high schools dropped out. Thirty-nine percent of  
12 these students were African-Americans; 38% were White; 21% were  
13 Hispanic; and 2% were classified as Other.

14 Although African-Americans make up 18% of the high school  
15 population, they are disproportionately represented in the  
16 number of students who are suspended and expelled. In the  
17 2001-2002 school year, 29,068 students were suspended from  
18 school. Forty-seven percent were White, 37% were  
19 African-American, 14% were Hispanic, and 1% were classified as  
20 Other. In regards to expulsions Statewide, the total number of  
21 high school students expelled was 1,651. Forty-three percent  
22 were African-American, 41% were White, 14% were Hispanic, and  
23 2% were classified as Other. Within Chicago public schools, 448  
24 students were expelled. Seventy-seven of these students were  
25 African-American; 27% were White; 14% were Hispanic; and 4%  
26 were classified as Other. The fact that African-Americans are

1 more likely to be suspended or expelled from school also  
2 contributes to the high dropout rate among African-American  
3 high school students.

4 In addition to educational challenges, African-Americans  
5 face challenges in the areas of employment and income. In the  
6 year 2000, the unemployment rate for African-Americans age 16  
7 years or older was 15% compared to only 6% for the total  
8 Illinois population. Moreover, the median household income of  
9 African-Americans in Illinois was \$31,699 compared to \$46,590  
10 for the total Illinois population, and the percentage of  
11 African-American families below the poverty level in Illinois  
12 was 26% percent in 1999 compared to 10.7% for the total  
13 Illinois population in that same year.

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

24 While the leading causes of death among African-Americans  
25 are the same as those for the general population in Illinois,  
26 African-Americans have a higher rate of death per 100,000

1 residents. The rate of overall deaths per 100,000 residents  
2 among African-Americans in the year 2000 was 1,181; 847 for  
3 Whites; and 411 for those classified as Other. The rate of  
4 cancer-related deaths per 100,000 residents by racial or ethnic  
5 groups in 2000 was: 278 African-Americans; 206 Whites; and 110  
6 of those classified as Other. The rate of diabetes-related  
7 deaths per 100,000 residents among African-Americans in 2000  
8 was 41 compared to 23 for Whites and 13 for those classified as  
9 Other. The rate of deaths per 100,000 residents by heart  
10 disease among African-Americans in 2000 was 352 compared to 257  
11 for Whites and 120 for those classified as Other. The rate of  
12 deaths per 100,000 residents by stroke among African-Americans  
13 in 2000 was 75; 60 for Whites; and 35 for those classified as  
14 Other.

15 African-Americans had higher rates of smoking and obesity  
16 than other racial groups in Illinois in 2001. African-Americans  
17 accounted for more of the new adult/adolescent AIDS cases,  
18 cumulative adult/adolescent AIDS cases, and number of people  
19 living with AIDS than other racial groups in Illinois in the  
20 year 2002. Still, 23% of uninsured persons in Illinois are  
21 African-American.

22 (b) The Illinois African-American Family Commission  
23 continues to be an essential key to promoting the preservation  
24 and strengthening of families. As of the effective date of this  
25 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly, just under 13  
26 million people live in Illinois. African-Americans represent

1 15% of the population and 25% of the residents living in Cook  
2 County. Despite some progress over the last few decades,  
3 African-Americans in Illinois continue to lag behind other  
4 racial groups relative to indicators of well-being in  
5 education, employment, income, and health. According to the  
6 2010 federal decennial census: just 28% of the African-American  
7 population over 25 years of age in Illinois completed their  
8 high school education; 36% had some college or an associate's  
9 degree; less than 12% held a bachelor's degree; less than 8%  
10 held either a graduate or professional degree.

11 These levels of education attainment reflect more  
12 fundamental problems with retaining African-Americans in  
13 school. The State Board of Education reported that for the  
14 2010-2011 school year, 18,210, or 2.77%, of students enrolled  
15 in public high schools dropped out. 39.3% of these students  
16 were African-Americans; 32.6% were White; 24.2% were Hispanic;  
17 and 2% were classified as Other.

18 Although African-Americans make up 20% of the high school  
19 population, they are disproportionately represented in the  
20 number of students who are suspended and expelled. In the  
21 2011-2012 school year, 29,928 students were suspended from  
22 school. 36% were White, 34% were African-American, 26% were  
23 Hispanic, and 4% were classified as Other. With regard to  
24 expulsions statewide, the total number of high school students  
25 expelled was 982. 37% were African-American, 41% were White,  
26 21% were Hispanic, and 2% were classified as Other. Within

1 Chicago public schools, 294 students were expelled. 80% of  
2 these students were African-American; none were White; 17% were  
3 Hispanic; and 3% were classified as Other. The fact that  
4 African-Americans are more likely to be suspended or expelled  
5 from school also contributes to the high dropout rate among  
6 African-American high school students.

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

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

1       While the leading causes of death among African-Americans  
2 are the same as those for the general population in Illinois,  
3 African-Americans have a higher rate of death per 100,000  
4 residents. The rate of overall deaths per 100,000 residents  
5 among African-Americans in the year 2010 was 898; 741 for  
6 Whites; and 458 for those classified as Other. The rate of  
7 cancer-related deaths per 100,000 residents by racial or ethnic  
8 groups in 2010 was 216 for African-Americans; 179 for Whites;  
9 and 124 for those classified as Other. The rate of  
10 diabetes-related deaths per 100,000 residents among  
11 African-Americans in 2010 was 114 compared to 66 for Whites and  
12 75 for those classified as Other. The rate of deaths per  
13 100,000 residents by heart disease among African-Americans in  
14 2010 was 232 compared to 179 for Whites and 121 for those  
15 classified as Other. The rate of deaths per 100,000 residents  
16 by stroke among African-Americans in 2010 was 108; 73 for  
17 Whites; and 56 for those classified as Other.

18       African-Americans had higher rates of smoking and obesity  
19 than other racial groups in Illinois in 2013. African-Americans  
20 accounted for more of the new adult/adolescent AIDS cases,  
21 cumulative adult/adolescent AIDS cases, and number of people  
22 living with AIDS than other racial groups in Illinois in the  
23 year 2013. Still, 24% of uninsured persons in Illinois are  
24 African-American.

25       (c) These huge disparities in education, employment,  
26 income, child welfare, criminal justice, and health

1 demonstrate the tremendous challenges facing the  
2 African-American family in Illinois. These challenges are  
3 severe. There is a need for government, child and family  
4 advocates, and other key stakeholders to create and implement  
5 public policies to address the health and social crises facing  
6 African-American families. The development of given solutions  
7 clearly transcends any one State agency and requires a  
8 coordinated effort. The Illinois African-American Family  
9 Commission shall assist State agencies with this task.

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



1 and commission within State government if any of its activities  
2 impact African-American children and families. The focus of the  
3 Commission is hereby restructured and shall exist by  
4 legislative mandate to engage State agencies in its efforts to  
5 preserve and strengthen African-American families.

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

7 (20 ILCS 3903/15)

8 Sec. 15. Purpose and objectives.

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

25 (1) Monitoring and commenting on existing and proposed

1 legislation and programs designed to address the needs of  
2 African-Americans in Illinois;

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

7 (3) Facilitating the participation of and  
8 representation of African-Americans in the development,  
9 implementation, and planning of policies, programs, and  
10 ~~community-based services; and.~~

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

13 The work of the Illinois African-American Family  
14 Commission shall include the use of existing reports, research  
15 and planning efforts, procedures, and programs.

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

17 (20 ILCS 3903/20)

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

20 For those seats on the Commission with terms that expire in  
21 2015, and for subsequent appointments to those seats, the  
22 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of  
23 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
24 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall each  
25 appoint one member to the Commission.

1       For those seats on the Commission with terms that expire in  
2 2016, and for subsequent appointments to those seats, the  
3 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of  
4 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
5 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall each  
6 appoint one member to the Commission.

7       For those seats on the Commission with terms that expire in  
8 2017, and for subsequent appointments to those seats, the  
9 Governor shall appoint 5 members to the Commission ~~who shall be~~  
10 ~~appointed by the Governor.~~

11       Each member shall have a working knowledge of human  
12 services, community development, and economic public policies  
13 in Illinois. The Governor shall appoint the chairperson or  
14 chairpersons.

15       The members shall reflect regional representation to  
16 ensure that the needs of African-American families and children  
17 throughout the State of Illinois are met. The members shall be  
18 selected from a variety of disciplines. They shall be  
19 representative of a partnership and collaborative effort  
20 between public and private agencies, the business sector, and  
21 community-based human services organizations.

22       Members shall serve 3-year terms, except in the case of  
23 initial appointments. One-third of initially appointed  
24 members, as determined by lot, shall be appointed to 1-year  
25 terms; 1/3 shall be appointed to 2-year terms; and 1/3 shall be  
26 appointed to 3-year terms, so that the terms are staggered.

1 Members will serve without compensation, but shall be  
2 reimbursed for Commission-related expenses.

3 The Department on Aging, the Department of Children and  
4 Family Services, the Department of Commerce and Economic  
5 Opportunity, the Department of Corrections, the Department of  
6 Human Services, the Department of Healthcare and Family  
7 Services, the Department of Public Health, the State Board of  
8 Education, the Board of Higher Education, the Illinois  
9 Community College Board, the Department of Human Rights, the  
10 Capital Development Board, the Department of Labor, and the  
11 Department of Transportation shall each appoint a liaison to  
12 serve ex-officio on the Commission. The Office of the Governor,  
13 in cooperation with the State agencies appointing liaisons to  
14 the Commission under this Section, shall provide  
15 administrative support to the Commission.

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

17 (20 ILCS 3903/25)

18 Sec. 25. Funding. The African-American Family Commission  
19 may ~~shall~~ receive funding through appropriations available for  
20 its purposes made to the Department on Aging, the Department of  
21 Children and Family Services, the Department of Commerce and  
22 Economic Opportunity, the Department of Corrections, the  
23 Department of Human Services, the Department of Healthcare and  
24 Family Services ~~(formerly Department of Public Aid)~~, the  
25 Department of Public Health, the State Board of Education, the

1 Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College  
2 Board, the Department of Human Rights, the Capital Development  
3 Board, the Department of Labor, and the Department of  
4 Transportation. The Commission may also receive and expend  
5 funding from federal and private sources, including gifts,  
6 donations, and private grants.

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

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
9 1, 2015."