



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

SB2966

Introduced 2/4/2014, by Sen. Heather A. Steans

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Urban Flooding Awareness Act. Defines "urban flooding". Provides that, by June 30, 2015, the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, the Department of Insurance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the Illinois State Water Survey of the University of Illinois, and other State, regional, and local storm water management agencies, thought leaders, and interested parties, shall submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report that reviews and evaluates the latest available research, laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and institutional knowledge concerning issues of urban flooding. Effective immediately.

LRB098 18011 MGM 53137 b

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

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 Urban
5 Flooding Awareness Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act, "urban
7 flooding" means the inundation of property in a built
8 environment, particularly in more densely populated areas,
9 caused by rainfall overwhelming the capacity of drainage
10 systems, such as storm sewers. "Urban flooding" does not
11 include flooding in undeveloped or agricultural areas. "Urban
12 flooding" includes (i) situations in which stormwater enters
13 buildings through windows, doors, or other openings, (ii) water
14 backup through sewer pipes, showers, toilets, sinks, and floor
15 drains, (iii) seepage through walls and floors, (iv) the
16 accumulation of water on property or public rights-of-way, and
17 (v) overflow from bodies of water, such as rivers and lakes.

18 Section 10. Urban Flooding Study. By June 30, 2015, the
19 Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the
20 Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois
21 Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Housing
22 Development Authority, the Department of Commerce and Economic

1 Development, the Department of Insurance, the Federal
2 Emergency Management Agency, the Metropolitan Water
3 Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the Illinois State
4 Water Survey of the University of Illinois, and other State,
5 regional, and local storm water management agencies, thought
6 leaders, and interested parties as the Director of Natural
7 Resources deems appropriate, shall submit to the General
8 Assembly and the Governor a report that reviews and evaluates
9 the latest available information, research, laws, regulations,
10 policies, procedures, and institutional knowledge, with
11 recommendations based on the findings in relation to:

12 (1) the prevalence and costs associated with urban flooding
13 events across the State, and the trends in frequency and
14 severity over the past two decades;

15 (2) the apparent impact of global climate change on urban
16 flooding;

17 (3) the impacts of county stormwater programs on urban
18 flooding over the past 2 decades, including a listing of
19 projects and programs and the flood damages avoided;

20 (4) the effects of the buyout of repetitive loss structures
21 and an assessment of the number and location of remaining flood
22 prone structures;

23 (5) an evaluation of policies such as using the 100-year
24 storm as the standard for designing urban stormwater detention
25 infrastructure, and the 10-year storm for the design of
26 stormwater conveyance systems;

1 (6) a review of technology to evaluate floodplains and the
2 risk of property damage from urban flooding, whether a property
3 is in or adjacent to a 1% (100-year) floodplain or not,
4 including LiDAR, unsteady floodplain modeling, and geographic
5 information systems;

6 (7) strategies for minimizing damage to property from urban
7 flooding, with a focus on rapid, low-cost approaches, such as
8 non-structural and natural infrastructure, and methods for
9 financing them;

10 (8) the consistency of the criteria for State funding of
11 flood control projects between the Department of Natural
12 Resources, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and the
13 Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development;

14 (9) strategies for increasing participation in the
15 National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System;
16 and

17 (10) strategies and practices to increase the
18 availability, affordability and effectiveness of flood
19 insurance and basement back-up insurance.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.