

# SB1696



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

SB1696

Introduced 2/9/2017, by Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Muslim American Advisory Council Act. Creates the Illinois Muslim American Advisory Council. Provides for the appointment of members to the Council and member requirements. Provides requirements for meetings of the Council. Requires the Council to issue semi-annual reports on its policy recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. Defines terms. Provides a severability clause. Effective immediately.

LRB100 10202 RJF 20384 b

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Illinois Muslim American Advisory Council Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and declaration of policy. The General  
7 Assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares:

8 (a) The State of Illinois is home to over 500,000 Muslims  
9 and over 300 mosques, representing various races and  
10 ethnicities, including but not limited to African Americans,  
11 West and East African Americans, South Asian Americans, Arab  
12 Americans, Latin Americans, and Caucasian Americans. They also  
13 represent a variety of professions, including but not limited  
14 to lawyers, business owners, professors, and community  
15 activists.

16 (b) Muslims are the third largest religious group in the  
17 State of Illinois after Roman Catholics and independent  
18 Evangelical Christians.

19 (c) It is the public policy of the State of Illinois to  
20 promote diversity and to ensure inclusion of all religious,  
21 racial, and ethnic groups within this State.

22 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

1 "Council" means the Illinois Muslim American Advisory  
2 Council created by this Act.

3 "Muslim" means an individual who practices the religion of  
4 Islam.

5 Section 15. The Illinois Muslim American Advisory Council.  
6 There is hereby created the Illinois Muslim American Advisory  
7 Council. The purpose of the Council is to advise the Governor  
8 and the General Assembly on policy issues impacting Muslim  
9 Americans and immigrants; to advance the role and civic  
10 participation of Muslim Americans in this State; to enhance  
11 trade and cooperation between Muslim-majority countries and  
12 this State; and to build relationships with and disseminate  
13 information to, in cooperation with State agencies, boards, and  
14 commissions, Muslim American and immigrant communities across  
15 this State.

16 Section 20. Council members.

17 (a) The Council shall consist of 21 members. The Governor  
18 shall appoint one member to be the representative of the Office  
19 of the Governor. The Governor, the President of the Senate, the  
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of  
21 the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House of  
22 Representatives shall also each appoint 4 public members to the  
23 Council. The Governor shall select the chairperson of the  
24 Council, from among the members.

1 (b) Appointing authorities shall ensure, to the maximum  
2 extent practicable, that the Council is diverse with respect to  
3 race, ethnicity, age, gender, and geography.

4 (c) Appointments to the Council shall be persons of  
5 recognized ability and experience in one or more of the  
6 following areas: higher education, business, international  
7 trade, law, social services, human services, immigration,  
8 refugee services, community development, or healthcare.

9 (d) Members of the Council shall serve 2-year terms. A  
10 member shall serve until his or her successor shall be  
11 appointed. Members of the Council shall not be entitled to  
12 compensation for their services as members.

13 (e) The following officials shall serve as ex-officio  
14 members: the Deputy Director of the Office of Trade and  
15 Investment within the Department of Commerce and Economic  
16 Opportunity, or his or her designee, and the Chief of the  
17 Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services within the Department  
18 of Human Services, or his or her designee. In addition, the  
19 Department on Aging, the Department of Children and Family  
20 Services, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the  
21 Department of Public Health, the Department of Central  
22 Management Services, the Board of Education, the Board of  
23 Higher Education, and the Community College Board shall each  
24 appoint a liaison to serve as an ex-officio member of the  
25 Council.

26 (f) The Council may establish committees that address

1 certain issues, including, but not limited to, communications,  
2 economic development, and legislative affairs.

3 (g) The Office of the Governor shall provide administrative  
4 and technical support to the Council, including a staff member  
5 to serve as ethics officer.

6 Section 25. Meetings. The Council shall meet at least once  
7 per month. In addition, the Council may hold up to 2 public  
8 hearings annually to assist in the development of policy  
9 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. All  
10 meetings of the Council shall be conducted in accordance with  
11 the Open Meetings Act. Eleven members of the Council shall  
12 constitute a quorum.

13 Section 30. Reports. The Council shall issue semi-annual  
14 reports on its policy recommendations by June 30th and December  
15 31st of each year to the Governor and the General Assembly.

16 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are  
17 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
19 becoming law.