



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

SB3402

Introduced 2/16/2018, by Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Council on Women and Girls Act. Creates the Illinois Council on Women and Girls. Provides that the Council shall advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policy issues impacting women and girls in this State with specified goals. Provides for the appointment of members to the Council. Provides for the meetings and operations of the Council. Requires the Council to issue semi-annual reports on its policy recommendations by June 30th and December 31st of each year to the Governor and the General Assembly. Provides findings and declaration of policy. Provides a severability clause. Effective immediately.

LRB100 19824 RJF 35100 b

1 AN ACT concerning State 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 Council on Women and Girls Act.

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

8 (1) the number of women and girls, of all ages in
9 Illinois as of 2013, was close to half of the State's
10 population, at 6,560,187;

11 (2) approximately 13% of the total population of the
12 women are immigrants;

13 (3) Illinois women who work full-time, year-round,
14 earn 80 cents on the dollar compared with similarly
15 employed men;

16 (4) approximately 28.2% of those working in science,
17 technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields in
18 Illinois are women, compared with 28.8% nationwide;

19 (5) approximately 32.7% of women in Illinois have a
20 bachelor's degree or higher, which is an increase of about
21 8 percentage points since the 2000;

22 (6) women in Illinois who are unionized earn \$122 more
23 per week, on average, than those who are not represented by

1 a union;

2 (7) approximately 61% of women in Illinois are part of
3 the labor force, and 27.2% of businesses in Illinois are
4 owned by women;

5 (8) heart disease is the biggest killer of women in the
6 United States, and Illinois ranks 29 of 51 with a mortality
7 rate of 136.9 per 100,000 women, specifically, 133.8 for
8 Caucasian women, 79.8 Hispanic women, 186.1 for African
9 American women, 70.5 for Pacific Islander women, and 72.1
10 for Native American women;

11 (9) the female lung cancer mortality rates for women,
12 per 100,000, in 2011-2013, was 42.0 for Caucasian women,
13 11.6 for Hispanic women; 44.2 for African American women;
14 and 15.8 for Pacific Islander women;

15 (10) the female breast cancer mortality rates for
16 women, per 100,000, in 2011-2013, was 22.8 for Caucasian
17 women, 10.6 for Hispanic women, 32.6 for African American
18 women, and 11.5 for Pacific Islander women; and

19 (11) approximately 65.9% of women in Illinois are
20 registered to vote.

21 Based on the foregoing findings, the General Assembly
22 determines and declares that it is the public policy of the
23 State of Illinois to provide fair and equal access for women in
24 Illinois to adequate healthcare, resources for professional
25 and academic opportunity, and resources for safety and proper
26 living conditions for them and their young children, paying

1 attention to the variances of impact in these areas along the
2 lines of race and ethnicity.

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

4 "Council" means the Illinois Council on Women and Girls
5 created by this Act.

6 "Woman" or "women" means persons who are biologically
7 female or who are transgender and identify as female.

8 Section 15. The Illinois Council on Women and Girls.

9 (a) There is hereby created the Illinois Council on Women
10 and Girls.

11 (b) The Council shall advise the Governor and the General
12 Assembly on policy issues impacting women and girls in this
13 State, American and immigrant women alike, including, but not
14 limited to, the following goals:

15 (1) to advance the role and civic participation of
16 women and girls in this State;

17 (2) to put in place programs and advocate policies that
18 work to end the gender pay gap and discrimination in
19 professional and academic opportunities;

20 (3) to promote resources and opportunities for
21 academic and professional growth;

22 (4) to allow women and young girls to have legal
23 protections and recourse in cases of sexual harassment in
24 the workplace;

1 (5) to provide proper standards of healthcare, and to
2 study the disparate impacts on women as it pertains to
3 diverse demographics;

4 (6) to protect women of the transgender community that
5 are marginalized in specific areas of safety, healthcare,
6 and opportunity; and

7 (7) to disseminate information and build relationships
8 between State agencies and commissions in furtherance of
9 the Council's goals under this Act.

10 Section 20. Council members.

11 (a) The Council shall consist of 21 members. The Governor
12 shall appoint one member to be the representative of the Office
13 of the Governor. The Governor, the President of the Senate, the
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of
15 the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House of
16 Representatives shall also each appoint 4 public members to the
17 Council. The Governor shall select the chairperson of the
18 Council from among the members.

19 (b) Appointing authorities shall ensure, to the maximum
20 extent practicable, that the Council is diverse with respect to
21 race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, and geography.

22 (c) Appointments to the Council shall be persons of
23 recognized ability and experience in one or more of the
24 following areas: higher education, business, law, social
25 services, human services, immigration, refugee services,

1 community development, or healthcare.

2 (d) Members of the Council shall serve 2-year terms. A
3 member shall serve until his or her successor shall be
4 appointed and qualified. Members of the Council shall not be
5 entitled to compensation for their services as members.

6 (e) The following officials shall serve as ex officio
7 members: the Lieutenant Governor, or his or her designee, and
8 the Chief of the Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services
9 within the Department of Human Services, or his or her
10 designee. Additionally, the Director, Executive Director, or
11 Superintendent of the following State agencies shall each
12 appoint one liaison to serve as an ex officio member of the
13 Council: the Department on Aging, the Department of Children
14 and Family Services, the Department of Healthcare and Family
15 Services, the Department of Public Health, the Illinois State
16 Board of Education, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and
17 the Illinois Community College Board.

18 (f) The Council may establish committees that address
19 certain issues, including, but not limited to, communications,
20 economic development, and legislative affairs.

21 (g) The Office of the Governor shall provide administrative
22 and technical support to the Council, including a staff member
23 to serve as the Council's ethics officer.

24 Section 25. Meetings. The Council shall meet at least once
25 per month. In addition, the Council may hold up to 2 public

1 hearings annually to assist in the development of policy
2 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly, and
3 implement programming to meet its overall mission goals. All
4 meetings of the Council shall be conducted in accordance with
5 the Open Meetings Act. Eleven members of the Council shall
6 constitute a quorum.

7 Section 30. Reports. The Council shall issue semi-annual
8 reports on its policy recommendations by June 30th and December
9 31st of each year to the Governor and the General Assembly.

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

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
13 becoming law.