

1 AN ACT concerning urban problems.

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

4 Section 1. Findings.

5 (1) The General Assembly finds that in the 20th Century
6 African-American communities in Illinois were substantially
7 economically disadvantaged due to the policy of "redlining",
8 whereby mortgage opportunities were denied to
9 African-Americans or provided at greater than average interest
10 rates.

11 (2) The General Assembly finds that through these policies,
12 the African-American population of Illinois became
13 concentrated in certain neighborhoods in Illinois cities. Due
14 to the lack of access to capital, many of the renters in these
15 neighborhoods were at the mercy of unscrupulous landlords, who
16 failed to provide the proper maintenance and improvements to
17 their properties. African-American homeowners in these
18 neighborhoods often lacked the funds for proper upkeep. As a
19 result, these neighborhoods began to become rundown and
20 dilapidated. Soon thereafter these neighborhoods were deemed
21 "blighted". Policymakers began to look for solutions to the
22 problem of "blighted areas".

23 (3) The Blighted Areas Redevelopment Act of 1947 was
24 enacted in an attempt to address the blighted areas problem.

1 However, the General Assembly finds that the ultimate effect of
2 this Act was to codify discriminatory housing practices by
3 declaring large swaths of African-American neighborhoods
4 blighted areas. This resulted in these areas being condemned
5 and demolished and the residents being forced to move without
6 affordable housing readily available. The ultimate result was
7 that the condemned areas were not redeveloped with affordable
8 housing, but rather converted to mixed industrial or highway
9 use, effectively serving as a "moat" between African-American
10 neighborhoods and the rest of the city.

11 (4) The General Assembly finds that the stain of the
12 discriminatory effects of the Blighted Areas Redevelopment Act
13 of 1947 cannot be erased. However, the effects can be
14 recognized and with the repeal of the Act, the path toward
15 healing can begin.

16 (315 ILCS 5/Act rep.)

17 Section 5. The Blighted Areas Redevelopment Act of 1947 is
18 repealed.

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