



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB0678

Introduced 2/8/2021, by Rep. Joyce Mason

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Regional Economic Development Act. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, in consultation with the Office of the Governor, shall establish economic development regions of the State and shall establish within each region at least one regional office. Provides for the boundaries of economic development regions. Provides for duties of the Department concerning economic development regions. Provides that the Governor shall establish regional economic development councils, one for each of the economic development regions. Provides for the duties, membership, and meetings of each council. Provides for the adoption of rules. Defines terms.

LRB102 10746 RJF 16075 b

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 Regional Economic Development Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Council" means a regional economic development council
8 created under this Act.

9 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic
10 Opportunity.

11 "Director" means the Director of Commerce and Economic
12 Opportunity.

13 Section 10. Economic development regions.

14 (a) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,
15 in consultation with the Office of the Governor, shall
16 establish economic development regions of the State and shall
17 establish within each region at least one regional office.

18 (b) The boundaries of regions shall be based on factors
19 including, but not limited to: (i) interdependence and
20 commonality of economic and social interests; (ii) previous
21 cooperation in economic development related matters; (iii)
22 intraregional commuting and transportation patterns; (iv)

1 geographic proximity to and dependence on centers of
2 employment and economic opportunity, population concentration,
3 and markets; (v) unifying topographic characteristics; (vi)
4 labor markets; and (vii) geographic size.

5 (c) The Department, through its regional offices, is
6 authorized: (i) to serve as a center for information regarding
7 economic development resources available from State, federal,
8 and local agencies; (ii) to provide outreach to businesses,
9 with attention to small and medium-sized businesses, including
10 minority and women-owned business enterprises, for financial
11 and technical assistance offered by State economic development
12 agencies, authorities, or other economic entities; (iii) to
13 serve as a regional center to accept applications for State
14 economic development programs; (iv) to coordinate the economic
15 development programs and activities of State agencies and
16 authorities within each region including, but not limited to,
17 outreach to businesses, technical assistance services, skills
18 training assistance, sharing of information, strategic
19 economic development plans and programs, to provide or arrange
20 for assistance in compliance with federal, State, and local
21 rules, regulations, permits, and licenses, and other measures
22 to enhance regional economic development and eliminate
23 duplication of services; (v) to provide or arrange for
24 assistance to persons, firms, agencies, partnerships or
25 corporations, either public or private, in applying for
26 assistance from State economic development programs or for

1 necessary licenses and permits or seeking to comply with
2 federal, State and local rules and regulations; (vi) to review
3 and comment, within their knowledge and expertise, with
4 respect to applications for State assistance in a timely
5 manner and form prescribed by the Director; (vii) to
6 distribute literature and marketing material describing the
7 facilities, advantages, and attractions of the region for
8 business; (viii) to provide economic development information,
9 planning services and technical assistance to counties and
10 municipalities within the region; (ix) to provide information
11 and assistance in the certification of minority and
12 women-owned business enterprises; and (x) to provide or
13 arrange for assistance to private sector employers, whether
14 operating for profit or not for profit, and to organizations
15 and associations of such employers in developing and
16 implementing innovative and flexible employee compensation,
17 assistance and benefit programs to enhance competitiveness and
18 meet emerging demographic and market conditions.

19 (d) To effectuate the purposes of this Section, the
20 Director may request from any department, division, board,
21 bureau, commission, or other agency of the State or from any
22 public benefit corporation or public authority, and the same
23 are authorized to provide, such assistance, services and data
24 as will enable the Department to properly carry out its
25 functions, powers, and duties hereunder.

1 Section 15. Regional economic development councils.

2 (a) The Governor shall establish regional economic
3 development councils, one for each of the economic development
4 regions established under Section 10.

5 (b) Each regional economic development council shall
6 develop long-term strategic plans for economic growth within
7 its region of the State, and shall (i) develop regional job
8 growth strategies, (ii) make recommendations for projects for
9 State and local funding, (iii) work to align local initiatives
10 with State development priorities, and (iv) perform any other
11 duties relevant to regional economic development as may be
12 prescribed by the Governor and the Department.

13 (c) The members of each regional economic development
14 council shall be local experts and stakeholders from
15 businesses, academia, municipalities, and non-governmental
16 organizations within the region. All such members shall be
17 appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of
18 the Governor without compensation.

19 (d) Meetings of a regional economic development council
20 shall be open to the public and subject to the requirements of
21 the Open Meetings Act.

22 Section 20. Rules. The Governor and the Department shall
23 adopt all rules necessary for the implementation of this Act.