

# HB1767



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB1767

Introduced 2/17/2021, by Rep. William Davis

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

315 ILCS 5/Act rep.

Repeals the Blighted Areas Redevelopment Act of 1947. Effective immediately.

LRB102 13323 KTG 18667 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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  
12 policies, 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  
2       of 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.