



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB2395

Introduced 2/17/2021, by Rep. Delia C. Ramirez

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 605/605-1055 new

Amends the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall establish criteria and guidelines for State-designated cultural districts. Specifies powers and duties of the Department. Provides requirements concerning certification of State-designated cultural districts. Provides State-designated cultural district reporting requirements. Defines "State-designated cultural district".

LRB102 14174 RJF 19526 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 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois
6 is amended by adding Section 605-1055 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-1055 new)

8 Sec. 605-1055. State-designated cultural districts.

9 (a) As used in this Section, "State-designated cultural
10 district" means a geographical area certified under this
11 Section that has a distinct, historic, and cultural identity
12 that does any of the following:

13 (1) Promotes a distinct historic and cultural
14 community.

15 (2) Encourages economic development and supports
16 entrepreneurship in the geographic area and community.

17 (3) Encourages the preservation of historic and
18 culturally significant structures, traditions, and
19 languages.

20 (4) Fosters local cultural development and education.

21 (5) Provides a focal point for celebrating and
22 strengthening the unique cultural identity of the
23 community.

1 (6) Promotes growth and opportunity without generating
2 displacement or expanding inequality.

3 (b) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
4 shall establish criteria and guidelines for State-designated
5 cultural districts by rule. In executing its powers and duties
6 under this Section, the Department shall:

7 (1) establish a competitive application system by
8 which a community may apply for certification as a
9 State-designated cultural district;

10 (2) provide technical assistance for State-designated
11 cultural districts in identifying and achieving their
12 goals for cultural preservation, including, but not
13 limited to, promotional support of State-designated
14 cultural districts; and

15 (3) collaborate with other State agencies, units of
16 local government, community organizations, and private
17 entities to maximize the benefits of State-designated
18 cultural districts.

19 (c) A geographical area within the State may be certified
20 as a State-designated cultural district by applying to the
21 Department for certification. Certification as a
22 State-designated cultural district shall be for a period of 5
23 years, after which the district may renew certification every
24 3 years.

25 (d) Within 12 months after being designated a cultural
26 district, the State-designated cultural district shall submit

1 a report to the Department detailing its current programs and
2 goals for the next 4 years of its designation. For each year
3 thereafter that the district remains a State-designated
4 cultural district, it shall submit a report to the Department
5 on the status of the program and future goals of the district.