



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB2836

Introduced 2/19/2021, by Rep. Tim Butler

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 605/605-418 new

Amends the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Creates the Division on Downstate Economic Development within the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Provides legislative findings and a statement of purpose. Provides that the Division shall plan and coordinate existing State programs designed to aid and stimulate the economic development in downstate communities in specified regions. Sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the Division. Provides that the Division shall be overseen by the Assistant Director. Provides rulemaking authority. Effective January 1, 2022.

LRB102 14228 HLH 19580 b

1 AN ACT concerning economic development.

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 605-418 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-418 new)

8 Sec. 605-418. Division on Downstate Economic Development.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds that Illinois is a diverse  
10 and vast state made up of different geographic areas and  
11 unique economic environments, there is a need to ensure that  
12 the Department is prepared to face each unique challenges with  
13 unique solutions. It is the purpose of this Section to  
14 recognize that the needs and priorities of the regions outside  
15 the State's largest urban, metropolitan area are significant  
16 and, indeed, vital to the State's overall success when looking  
17 at the economic success of Illinois. Therefore, there is  
18 established within the Department a Division on Downstate  
19 Economic Development.

20 (b) The Department shall provide for, staff, and  
21 administer a Division on Downstate Economic Development, which  
22 shall plan and coordinate existing State programs designed to  
23 aid and stimulate the economic development in downstate

1 communities that include the following economic development  
2 regions:

3 Northern Stateline Region;

4 Northwest Region;

5 West Central Region;

6 North Central Region;

7 East Central Region;

8 Central Region;

9 Southwest Region;

10 Southeast Region; and

11 Southern Region.

12 (c) To fulfill the purposes set forth in subsection (a),  
13 the Department shall assign appropriate duties to the  
14 Division, including, but not limited to:

15 (1) Reviewing all current Department programs,  
16 offerings, and forms of assistance that exist and are  
17 available to downstate communities.

18 (2) Identifying Department functions and  
19 operations that need to be housed under the Division  
20 on Downstate Economic Development.

21 (3) Recommending any necessary improvements to the  
22 manner by which the Department administers existing  
23 Department programs, offerings, and forms of  
24 assistance to downstate communities.

25 (4) Facilitating and streamlining the functions of  
26 the Department in order to improve the Department's

1 interaction with downstate communities.

2 (5) Gathering information concerning any State or  
3 Federal program that is designed to revitalize or  
4 assist downstate communities in the State and  
5 providing this information to public and private  
6 entities upon request.

7 (6) Promoting and assisting the development,  
8 redevelopment, and revitalization of downstate  
9 communities.

10 (7) Promoting the maintaining of jobs and seeking  
11 the creation of new job opportunities in downstate  
12 communities.

13 (8) Recommending to the General Assembly and the  
14 Governor economic policies that may improve the  
15 economic climate in downstate communities.

16 (9) Making rules necessary to carry out its  
17 responsibilities under this Law.

18 (10) Encouraging new industrial enterprises to  
19 locate in downstate communities through (i)  
20 educational promotions that point out the  
21 opportunities of downstate communities as commercial  
22 and industrial fields of opportunity and (ii)  
23 solicitation of industrial enterprises; and to do take  
24 any actions deemed necessary and proper in order to  
25 meet the duties of the Division. The Division,  
26 however, shall have no power to require reports from

1           or to regulate any business.

2           (11) Accepting grants, loans, or appropriations  
3           from the federal government or the State, or any  
4           agency or instrumentality thereof, to be used for the  
5           operating expenses of the Division or for any purposes  
6           of the Division.

7           (d) If the Department identifies that an existing Office,  
8           Division, or Program (under the Department's jurisdiction)  
9           performs, plans, or coordinates a function or duty of the  
10           Division created under this Section that is hereby  
11           established, the Department may take any necessary actions to  
12           not, to the best of its ability, duplicate or otherwise  
13           overlap Department operations. The Department shall take the  
14           necessary actions prior to establishing the Division to  
15           utilize existing Department funds and resources to implement  
16           this Section.

17           (e) The Assistant Director shall oversee the  
18           implementation and administration of all functions and duties  
19           performed by the Division under this Section.

20           (f) The Department shall adopt any rules necessary to  
21           implement the provisions of this Section.

22           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
23           1, 2022.