

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 and development of
18 historic and culturally significant structures,
19 traditions, and 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) Administrative authority. The Department of Commerce
4 and Economic Opportunity shall establish criteria and
5 guidelines for State-designated cultural districts by rule in
6 accordance with qualifying criteria outlined in subsection
7 (c). In executing its powers and duties under this Section,
8 the Department shall:

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

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

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

21 (4) establish an advisory committee to advise the
22 Department on program rules and the certification process.
23 The advisory committee must include:

24 (A) a representative of the Department appointed
25 by the Director;

26 (B) a representative of the Department of

1 Agriculture appointed by the Director of Agriculture;

2 (C) a representative of the Illinois Housing
3 Development Authority appointed by the Executive
4 Director of the Illinois Housing Development
5 Authority;

6 (D) a representative of the Illinois Office of
7 Tourism appointed by the Director;

8 (E) a Latino Caucus member of the House of
9 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House
10 of Representatives;

11 (F) a Black Caucus member of the House of
12 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House
13 of Representatives;

14 (G) a Latino Caucus member of the Senate appointed
15 by the President of the Senate;

16 (H) a Black Caucus member of the Senate appointed
17 by the Senate President; and

18 (I) four community representatives appointed by
19 the Governor representing diverse racial, ethnic, and
20 geographic groups not captured in the membership of
21 the other designees, with the input of community and
22 stakeholder groups.

23 (c) Certification. A geographical area within the State
24 may be certified as a State-designated cultural district by
25 applying to the Department for certification. Certification as
26 a State-designated cultural district shall be for a period of

1 10 years, after which the district may renew certification
2 every 5 years. A municipality or 501(c)(3) organization may
3 apply for certification on behalf of a geographic area. The
4 applying entity is responsible for complying with reporting
5 requirements under subsection (d). The Department shall
6 develop criteria to assess whether an applicant qualifies for
7 certification under this Section. That criteria must include a
8 demonstration that the applicant and the community:

9 (1) have been historically impacted and are currently
10 at risk of losing their cultural identity because of
11 gentrification, displacement, or the COVID-19 pandemic;

12 (2) can demonstrate a history of economic
13 disinvestment;

14 (3) can demonstrate strong community support for the
15 cultural district designation through active and formal
16 participation by community organizations and municipal and
17 regional government agencies or officials;

18 (4) have development plans that include and prioritize
19 the preservation of local businesses and retention of
20 existing residents and businesses; and

21 (5) have an education framework in place informed with
22 a vision of food justice, social justice, community
23 sustainability, and social equity.

24 (d) Within 12 months after being designated a cultural
25 district, the State-designated cultural district shall submit
26 a report to the Department detailing its current programs and

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