



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5868

by Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

15 ILCS 305/21 new

Amends the Secretary of State Act. Provides that the Secretary of State shall create an Office of Faith-Based Community Development Services to connect faith-based community organizations with grant opportunities, as well as provide assistance in completing grant applications. Provides that the Office of Faith-Based Community Development Services shall promote collaboration and unity among diverse groups, foster interfaith dialogue and interagency collaboration to offer comprehensive support services, ensure equitable distribution of resources across various community groups to support their missions and projects, leverage faith-based properties to increase housing opportunities, and develop guides on mental health, grant application processes, housing initiatives, and creating sensory-friendly spaces for the faith community. Provides that the Secretary of State shall appoint an Interfaith Advisory Council to advise the Office of Faith-Based Community Development Services and collaborate with religious communities in this State.

LRB103 41692 SPS 74912 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 Secretary of State Act is amended by adding
5 Section 21 as follows:

6 (15 ILCS 305/21 new)

7 Sec. 21. Office of Faith-Based Community Development
8 Services.

9 (a) The Secretary of State shall create an Office of
10 Faith-Based Community Development Services to connect
11 faith-based community organizations with grant opportunities,
12 as well as provide assistance in completing grant
13 applications. The Office of Faith-Based Community Development
14 Services shall also promote collaboration and unity among
15 diverse groups, foster interfaith dialogue and interagency
16 collaboration to offer comprehensive support services, ensure
17 equitable distribution of resources across various community
18 groups to support their missions and projects, leverage
19 faith-based properties to increase housing opportunities, and
20 develop guides on mental health, grant application processes,
21 housing initiatives, and creating sensory-friendly spaces for
22 the faith community.

23 (b) The Secretary of State shall appoint an Interfaith

1 Advisory Council to advise the Office of Faith-Based Community
2 Development Services and collaborate with religious
3 communities in this State.