

1 AN ACT concerning tourism.

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 Community  
5 Affairs Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is  
6 amended by changing Section 605-705 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-705) (was 20 ILCS 605/46.6a)

8 Sec. 605-705. Grants to local tourism and convention  
9 bureaus.

10 (a) To establish a grant program for local tourism and  
11 convention bureaus. The Department of Commerce and Community  
12 Affairs will develop and implement a program for the use of  
13 funds, as authorized under this Act, by local tourism and  
14 convention bureaus. For the purposes of this Act, bureaus  
15 eligible to receive funds are those local tourism and  
16 convention bureaus that are (i) either units of local  
17 government or incorporated as not-for-profit organizations;  
18 (ii) in legal existence for a minimum of 2 years before July  
19 1, 2001; (iii) operating with a paid, full-time staff whose  
20 sole purpose is to promote tourism in the designated service  
21 area; and (iv) affiliated with one or more municipalities or  
22 counties that support the bureau with local hotel-motel  
23 taxes. After July 1, 2001, bureaus requesting certification  
24 in order to receive funds for the first time must be local  
25 tourism and convention bureaus that are (i) either units of  
26 local government or incorporated as not-for-profit  
27 organizations; (ii) in legal existence for a minimum of 2  
28 years before the request for certification; (iii) operating  
29 with a paid, full-time staff whose sole purpose is to promote  
30 tourism in the designated service area; and (iv) affiliated  
31 with multiple municipalities or counties that support the

1 bureau with local hotel-motel taxes. Each bureau receiving  
2 funds under this Act will be certified by the Department as  
3 the designated recipient to serve an area of the State.  
4 Notwithstanding the criteria set forth in this subsection  
5 (a), or any rule adopted under this subsection (a), the  
6 Director of the Department may provide for the award of grant  
7 funds to one or more entities if in the Department's judgment  
8 that action is necessary in order to prevent a loss of  
9 funding critical to promoting tourism in a designated  
10 geographic area of the State.

11 (b) To distribute grants to local tourism and convention  
12 bureaus from appropriations made from the Local Tourism Fund  
13 for that purpose. Of the amounts appropriated annually to  
14 the Department for expenditure under this Section, one-third  
15 of those monies shall be used for grants to convention and  
16 tourism bureaus in cities with a population greater than  
17 500,000. The remaining two-thirds of the annual  
18 appropriation shall be used for grants to convention and  
19 tourism bureaus in the remainder of the State, in accordance  
20 with a formula based upon the population served. The  
21 Department may reserve up to 10% of the total appropriated to  
22 conduct audits of grants, to provide incentive funds to those  
23 bureaus that will conduct promotional activities designed to  
24 further the Department's statewide advertising campaign, to  
25 fund special statewide promotional activities, and to fund  
26 promotional activities that support an increased use of the  
27 State's parks or historic sites.

28 (Source: P.A. 91-239, eff. 1-1-00; 91-357, eff. 7-29-99;  
29 92-16, eff. 6-28-01; 92-38, eff. 6-28-01; 92-524, eff.  
30 2-8-02.)