

1 AN ACT concerning historic preservation.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Act
5 is amended by adding Section 20 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 3405/20 new)

7 Sec. 20. Freedom Trail Commission.

8 (a) Creation. The Freedom Trail Commission is created
9 within the Agency. The budgeting, procurement, and related
10 functions of the commission and administrative
11 responsibilities for the staff of the commission shall be
12 performed under the direction and supervision of the Agency.

13 (b) Membership. The commission shall consist of 16
14 members, appointed as soon as possible after the effective
15 date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly. The
16 members shall be appointed as follows:

17 (1) one member appointed by the President of the
18 Senate;

19 (2) one member appointed by the Senate Minority
20 Leader;

21 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the
22 House;

23 (4) one member appointed by the House Minority
24 Leader;

25 (5) 9 members appointed by the Governor as follows:

26 (i) 3 members from the academic community who
27 are knowledgeable concerning African-American
28 history; (ii) one public member who is actively
29 involved in civil rights issues; (iii) one public
30 member who is knowledgeable in the field of historic
31 preservation; (iv) one public member who represents

1 local communities in which the underground railroad
2 had a significant presence; and (v) 3 members at
3 large, one of whom shall be a representative of the
4 DuSable Museum and one of whom shall be a
5 representative of the Chicago Historical Society;
6 (6) the Director of Commerce and Community Affairs,
7 ex officio, or a designee of the Director;
8 (7) the State Librarian, ex officio, or a designee
9 of the State Library; and
10 (8) the Director of the Historic Preservation
11 Agency, ex officio, or a designee of that Agency.

12 Appointed members shall serve at the pleasure of the
13 appointing authority.

14 (c) Election of chairperson; meetings. At its first
15 meeting, the commission shall elect from among its members a
16 chairperson and other officers it considers necessary or
17 appropriate. After its first meeting, the commission shall
18 meet at least quarterly, or more frequently at the call of
19 the chairperson or if requested by 7 or more members.

20 (d) Quorum. A majority of the members of the commission
21 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a
22 meeting of the commission. A majority of the members present
23 and serving is required for official action of the
24 commission.

25 (e) Public meeting. The business that the commission may
26 perform shall be conducted at a public meeting of the
27 commission held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

28 (f) Freedom of information. A writing prepared, owned,
29 used, in the possession of, or retained by the commission in
30 the performance of an official function is subject to the
31 Freedom of Information Act.

32 (g) Compensation. Members of the commission shall serve
33 without compensation. However, members of the commission may
34 be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses

1 incurred in the performance of their official duties as
2 members of the commission.

3 (h) Duties. The commission shall do the following:

4 (1) Prepare a master plan to promote and preserve
5 the history of the freedom trail and underground railroad
6 in the State.

7 (2) Work in conjunction with State and federal
8 authorities to sponsor commemorations, linkages,
9 seminars, and public forums on the freedom trail and
10 underground railroad in the State and in neighboring
11 states.

12 (3) Assist in and promote the making of
13 applications for inclusion in the national and State
14 registers of historic places for significant historic
15 places related to the freedom trail and the underground
16 railroad in the State.

17 (4) Assist in developing and develop partnerships
18 to seek public and private funds to carry out activities
19 to protect, preserve, and promote the legacy of the
20 freedom trail and the underground railroad in the State.

21 (5) Work with the Illinois State Board of Education
22 to evaluate, conduct research concerning, and develop a
23 curriculum for use in Illinois public schools regarding
24 the underground railroad, with emphasis on the activities
25 of the underground railroad within the State.

26 (i) Report. The commission shall report its activities
27 and findings to the General Assembly by February 1, 2004.

28 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
29 becoming law.