

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.