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AN ACT in relation to economic development.

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

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
Eastern Illinois Economic Development Authority Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly determines and
7 declares the following:

8 (1) that labor surplus areas currently exist in eastern9 Illinois;

(2) that the economic burdens resulting from involuntary 10 unemployment fall, in part, upon the State in the form of 11 increased need for public assistance and reduced tax revenues 12 and, in the event that the unemployed worker and his or her 13 14 family migrate elsewhere to find work, the burden may also fall 15 upon the municipalities and other taxing districts within the areas of unemployment in the form of reduced tax revenues, 16 17 thereby endangering their financial ability to support 18 necessary governmental services for their remaining 19 inhabitants;

(3) that the State has a responsibility to help create a favorable climate for new and improved job opportunities for its citizens by encouraging the development of commercial and service businesses and industrial and manufacturing plants within eastern Illinois;

(4) that a lack of decent housing contributes to urban blight, crime, anti-social behavior, disease, a higher need for public assistance, reduced tax revenues, and the migration of workers and their families away from areas which fail to offer adequate, decent, and affordable housing;

30 (5) that decent, affordable housing is a necessary 31 ingredient of life affording each citizen basic human dignity, 32 a sense of self-worth, confidence, and a firm foundation upon HB0690 Enrolled - 2 - LRB094 06847 AJO 36953 b

1 which to build a family and educate children;

(6) that in order to foster civic and neighborhood pride,
citizens require access to educational institutions,
recreation, parks and open spaces, entertainment, sports, a
reliable transportation network, cultural facilities, and
theaters; and

7 (7) that the main purpose of this Act is to promote 8 industrial, commercial, residential, service, transportation, 9 and recreational activities and facilities, thereby reducing 10 the evils attendant upon unemployment and enhancing the public 11 health, safety, morals, happiness, and general welfare of the 12 State.

13 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

14 "Authority" means the Eastern Illinois Economic15 Development Authority.

16 "Governmental agency" means any federal, State, or local 17 governmental body and any agency or instrumentality thereof, 18 corporate or otherwise.

19 "Person" means any natural person, firm, partnership, 20 corporation, both domestic and foreign, company, association 21 or joint stock association and includes any trustee, receiver, 22 assignee or personal representative thereof.

"Revenue bond" means any bond issued by the Authority, the principal and interest of which is payable solely from revenues or income derived from any project or activity of the Authority.

27 "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Eastern28 Illinois Economic Development Authority.

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"Governor" means the Governor of the State of Illinois.

30 "City" means any city, village, incorporated town, or 31 township within the geographical territory of the Authority.

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"Industrial project" means the following:

33 (1) a capital project, including one or more buildings and 34 other structures, improvements, machinery and equipment 35 whether or not on the same site or sites now existing or HB0690 Enrolled - 3 - LRB094 06847 AJO 36953 b

hereafter acquired, suitable for use by any manufacturing, 1 2 industrial, research, transportation or commercial enterprise 3 including but not limited to use as a factory, mill, processing 4 plant, assembly plant, packaging plant, fabricating plant, 5 ethanol plant, office building, industrial distribution 6 center, warehouse, repair, overhaul or service facility, 7 freight terminal, research facility, test facility, railroad 8 facility, port facility, solid waste and wastewater treatment 9 and disposal sites and other pollution control facilities, resource or waste reduction, recovery, treatment and disposal 10 11 facilities, and including also the sites thereof and other 12 rights in land therefore whether improved or unimproved, site 13 landscaping preparation and and all appurtenances and facilities incidental thereto such as utilities, access roads, 14 15 railroad sidings, truck docking and similar facilities, 16 parking facilities, dockage, wharfage, railroad roadbed, 17 track, trestle, depot, terminal, switching and signaling or related equipment and other improvements 18 equipment 19 necessary or convenient thereto; or

(2) any land, buildings, machinery or equipment comprising
 an addition to or renovation, rehabilitation or improvement of
 any existing capital project.

"Commercial project" means any project, including, but not limited to, one or more buildings and other structures, improvements, machinery, and equipment, whether or not on the same site or sites now existing or hereafter acquired, suitable for use by any retail or wholesale concern, distributorship, or agency.

29 industrial, housing, residential, "Project" means an 30 commercial, or service project, or any combination thereof, 31 provided that all uses fall within one of the categories 32 described above. Any project automatically includes all site 33 improvements and new construction involving sidewalks, sewers, solid waste and wastewater treatment and disposal sites and 34 35 other pollution control facilities, resource or waste 36 reduction, recovery, treatment and disposal facilities, parks,

1 open spaces, wildlife sanctuaries, streets, highways, and 2 runways.

3 "Lease agreement" means an agreement in which a project 4 acquired by the Authority by purchase, gift, or lease is leased 5 to any person or corporation that will use, or cause the 6 project to be used, as a project, upon terms providing for lease rental payments at least sufficient to pay, when due, all 7 principal of and interest and premium, if any, on any bonds, 8 9 notes, or other evidences of indebtedness of the Authority, 10 issued with respect to the project, providing for the 11 maintenance, insurance, and operation of the project on terms 12 satisfactory to the Authority and providing for disposition of 13 the project upon termination of the lease term, including purchase options or abandonment of the premises, with other 14 15 terms as may be deemed desirable by the Authority.

16 "Loan agreement" means any agreement in which the Authority 17 agrees to loan the proceeds of its bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness, issued with respect to a project, to 18 19 any person or corporation which will use or cause the project 20 to be used as a project, upon terms providing for loan repayment installments at least sufficient to pay, when due, 21 22 all principal of and interest and premium, if any, on any 23 bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness of the 24 Authority issued with respect to the project, providing for 25 maintenance, insurance, and operation of the project on terms 26 satisfactory to the Authority and providing for other terms 27 deemed advisable by the Authority.

28 "Financial aid" means the expenditure of Authority funds or 29 funds provided by the Authority for the development, 30 construction, acquisition or improvement of a project, through 31 the issuance of revenue bonds, notes, or other evidences of 32 indebtedness.

33 "Costs incurred in connection with the development, 34 construction, acquisition or improvement of a project" means 35 the following:

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(1) the cost of purchase and construction of all lands and

improvements in connection therewith and equipment and other property, rights, easements, and franchises acquired which are deemed necessary for the construction;

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(2) financing charges;

(3) interest costs with respect to bonds, notes, and other
evidences of indebtedness of the Authority prior to and during
construction and for a period of 6 months thereafter;

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(4) engineering and legal expenses; and

9 (5) the costs of plans, specifications, surveys, and 10 estimates of costs and other expenses necessary or incident to 11 determining the feasibility or practicability of any project, 12 together with such other expenses as may be necessary or 13 incident to the financing, insuring, acquisition, and construction of a specific project and the placing of the same 14 15 in operation.

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## Section 15. Creation.

(a) There is created a political subdivision, body politic, 17 18 and municipal corporation named the Eastern Illinois Economic 19 Development Authority. The territorial jurisdiction of the Authority is that geographic area within the boundaries of the 20 following counties: Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, 21 Champaign, Vermilion, Douglas, Moultrie, Shelby, Coles, and Edgar and any 22 navigable waters and air space located therein. 23

(b) The governing and administrative powers of the Authority shall be vested in a body consisting of 14 members as follows:

27 (1) Ex officio members. The Director of Commerce and
28 Economic Opportunity, or a designee of that Department,
29 shall serve as an ex officio member.

30 (2) Public members. Three members shall be appointed by
31 the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The
32 county board chairperson of the following counties shall
33 each appoint one member: Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, Champaign,
34 Vermilion, Douglas, Moultrie, Shelby, Coles, and Edgar.
35 All public members shall reside within the territorial

1 jurisdiction of the Authority. The public members shall be 2 persons of recognized ability and experience in one or more of the following areas: economic development, finance, 3 industrial development, 4 banking, state or local commercial 5 government, agriculture, small business 6 management, real estate development, community 7 development, venture finance, organized labor, or civic or 8 community organization.

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(c) 8 members shall constitute a quorum.

10 (d) The chairperson of the Authority shall be elected 11 annually by the Board and must be a public member that resides 12 within the territorial jurisdiction of the Authority.

13 (e) The terms of all initial members of the Authority shall begin 30 days after the effective date of this Act. Of the 3 14 15 original public members appointed by the Governor, 1 shall 16 serve until the third Monday in January, 2006; 1 shall serve 17 until the third Monday in January, 2007; 1 shall serve until the third Monday in January, 2008. The initial terms of the 18 19 original public members appointed by the county board 20 chairpersons shall be determined by lot, according to the following schedule: (i) 2 shall serve until the third Monday in 21 January, 2006, (ii) 2 shall serve until the third Monday in 22 23 January, 2007, (iii) 2 shall serve until the third Monday in January, 2008, (iv) 2 shall serve until the third Monday in 24 January, 2009, and (v) 2 shall serve until the third Monday in 25 26 January, 2010. All successors to these original public members 27 shall be appointed by the original appointing authority and all 28 appointments made by the Governor shall be made with the advice and consent of the Senate, pursuant to subsection (b), and 29 30 shall hold office for a term of 6 years commencing the third 31 Monday in January of the year in which their term commences, 32 except in the case of an appointment to fill a vacancy. Vacancies occurring among the public members shall be filled 33 for the remainder of the term. In case of vacancy in a 34 35 Governor-appointed membership when the Senate is not in 36 session, the Governor may make a temporary appointment until

1 the next meeting of the Senate when a person shall be nominated 2 to fill the office and, upon confirmation by the Senate, he or 3 she shall hold office during the remainder of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualified. Members of the 4 5 Authority are not entitled to compensation for their services 6 as members but are entitled to reimbursement for all necessary expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their 7 8 duties as members.

9 (f) The Governor or a county board chairperson, as the case 10 may be, may remove any public member of the Authority in case 11 of incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office. The 12 chairperson of a county board may remove any public member 13 appointed by that chairperson in the case of incompetence, 14 neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

15 (g) The Board shall appoint an Executive Director who shall 16 have a background in finance, including familiarity with the 17 legal and procedural requirements of issuing bonds, real estate, or economic development and administration. 18 The 19 Executive Director shall hold office at the discretion of the 20 Board. The Executive Director shall be the chief administrative and operational officer of the Authority, shall direct and 21 supervise its administrative affairs and general management, 22 23 perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the members, and receive compensation fixed by the 24 25 Authority. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall pay the compensation of the Executive Director from 26 27 appropriations received for that purpose. The Executive 28 Director shall attend all meetings of the Authority. However, 29 no action of the Authority shall be invalid on account of the 30 absence of the Executive Director from a meeting. The Authority 31 may engage the services of the Illinois Finance Authority, 32 attorneys, appraisers, engineers, accountants, credit analysts, and other consultants if the Eastern Illinois 33 34 Economic Development Authority deems it advisable.

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Section 20. Duty. All official acts of the Authority shall

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1 require the approval of at least 11 members. It shall be the 2 duty of the Authority to promote development within the 3 geographic confines of Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, Champaign, Vermilion, Douglas, Moultrie, Shelby, Coles, and Edgar 4 5 counties. The Authority shall use the powers conferred upon it 6 to assist in the development, construction, and acquisition of industrial, commercial, housing, or residential projects 7 within its territorial jurisdiction. 8

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Section 25. Powers.

10 (a) The Authority possesses all the powers of a body 11 corporate necessary and convenient to accomplish the purposes of this Act, including, without any intended limitation upon 12 13 the general powers hereby conferred, the following powers:

(1) to enter into loans, contracts, agreements, and 14 15 mortgages in any matter connected with any of its corporate 16 purposes and to invest its funds;

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(2) to sue and be sued;

(3) to utilize services of the Illinois Finance 18 19 Authority necessary to carry out its purposes;

(4) to have and use a common seal and to alter the seal 20 at its discretion; 21

(5) to adopt all needful ordinances, resolutions, 22 bylaws, rules, and regulations for the conduct of its 23 business and affairs and for the management and use of the 24 projects developed, constructed, acquired, and improved in 25 26 furtherance of its purposes;

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(6) to designate the fiscal year for the Authority;

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(7) to accept and expend appropriations;

29 (8) to acquire, own, lease, sell, or otherwise dispose 30 of interests in and to real property and improvements 31 situated on that real property and in personal property necessary to fulfill the purposes of the Authority; 32

33 (9) to engage in any activity or operation which is incidental to and in furtherance of efficient operation to 34 accomplish the Authority's primary purpose; 35

1 (10) to acquire, own, construct, lease, operate, and 2 maintain bridges, terminals, terminal facilities, and port 3 facilities and to fix and collect just, reasonable, and 4 nondiscriminatory charges for the use of such facilities. 5 These charges shall be used to defray the reasonable 6 expenses of the Authority and to pay the principal and 7 interest of any revenue bonds issued by the Authority;

8 (11) subject to any applicable condition imposed by 9 this Act, to locate, establish and maintain a public 10 airport, public airports and public airport facilities 11 within its corporate limits or within or upon any body of 12 water adjacent thereto and to construct, develop, expand, 13 extend and improve any such airport or airport facility; 14 and

(12) to have and exercise all powers and be subject to
all duties usually incident to boards of directors of
corporations.

(b) The Authority shall not issue any bonds relating to the 18 19 financing of a project located within the planning and 20 subdivision control jurisdiction of any municipality or county unless: (i) notice, including a description of the proposed 21 project and the financing for that project, is submitted to the 22 23 corporate authorities of the municipality or, in the case of a proposed project in an unincorporated area, to the county board 24 25 and (ii) the corporate authorities of the municipality do not, or the county board does not, adopt a resolution disapproving 26 27 the project within 45 days after receipt of the notice.

(c) If any of the powers set forth in this Act are
 exercised within the jurisdictional limits of any
 municipality, all ordinances of the municipality remain in full
 force and effect and are controlling.

32 Section 30. Tax avoidance. Notwithstanding any other 33 provision of law, the Authority shall not enter into any 34 agreement providing for the purchase and lease of tangible 35 personal property which results in the avoidance of taxation

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1 under the Retailers' Occupation Tax Act, the Use Tax Act, the 2 Service Use Tax Act, or the Service Occupation Tax Act, without 3 the prior written consent of the Governor.

4 Section 35. Bonds.

(a) The Authority, with the written approval of 5 the Governor, shall have the continuing power to issue bonds, 6 7 notes, or other evidences of indebtedness in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$250,000,000 for the following purposes: 8 (i) development, construction, acquisition, or improvement of 9 projects, including those established by business entities 10 expanding property within the territorial 11 locating or jurisdiction of the Authority; (ii) entering into venture 12 13 capital agreements with businesses locating or expanding 14 within the territorial jurisdiction of the Authority; (iii) 15 acquisition and improvement of any property necessary and useful in connection therewith; and (iv) for the purposes of 16 the Employee Ownership Assistance Act. For the purpose of 17 18 evidencing the obligations of the Authority to repay any money 19 borrowed, the Authority may, pursuant to resolution, from time 20 to time, issue and dispose of its interest-bearing revenue bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness and may also 21 22 from time to time issue and dispose of such bonds, notes, or 23 other evidences of indebtedness to refund, at maturity, at a redemption date or in advance of either, any bonds, notes, or 24 25 other evidences of indebtedness pursuant to redemption 26 provisions or at any time before maturity. All such bonds, 27 notes, or other evidences of indebtedness shall be payable solely and only from the revenues or income to be derived from 28 29 loans made with respect to projects, from the leasing or sale 30 of the projects, or from any other funds available to the 31 Authority for such purposes. The bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness may bear such date or dates, may 32 33 mature at such time or times not exceeding 40 years from their respective dates, may bear interest at such rate or rates not 34 35 exceeding the maximum rate permitted by the Bond Authorization Act, may be in such form, may carry such registration privileges, may be executed in such manner, may be payable at such place or places, may be made subject to redemption in such manner and upon such terms, with or without premium, as is stated on the face thereof, may be authenticated in such manner and may contain such terms and covenants as may be provided by an applicable resolution.

8 (b) The holder or holders of any bonds, notes, or other 9 evidences of indebtedness issued by the Authority may bring 10 suits at law or proceedings in equity to compel the performance 11 and observance by any corporation or person or by the Authority 12 or any of its agents or employees of any contract or covenant 13 made with the holders of the bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness, to compel such corporation, person, the 14 15 Authority, and any of its agents or employees to perform any 16 duties required to be performed for the benefit of the holders 17 of the bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness by the provision of the resolution authorizing their issuance and to 18 19 enjoin the corporation, person, the Authority, and any of its 20 agents or employees from taking any action in conflict with any contract or covenant. 21

22 (c) If the Authority fails to pay the principal of or 23 interest on any of the bonds or premium, if any, as the bond becomes due, a civil action to compel payment may be instituted 24 in the appropriate circuit court by the holder or holders of 25 26 the bonds on which the default of payment exists or by an 27 indenture trustee acting on behalf of the holders. Delivery of 28 a summons and a copy of the complaint to the chairman of the 29 Board shall constitute sufficient service to give the circuit 30 court jurisdiction over the subject matter of the suit and 31 jurisdiction over the Authority and its officers named as 32 defendants for the purpose of compelling such payment. Any case, controversy, or cause of action concerning the validity 33 of this Act relates to the revenue of the State of Illinois. 34

35 (d) Notwithstanding the form and tenor of any bond, note,36 or other evidence of indebtedness and in the absence of any

express recital on its face that it is non-negotiable, all such bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness shall be negotiable instruments. Pending the preparation and execution of any bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness, temporary bonds, notes, or evidences of indebtedness may be issued as provided by ordinance.

(e) To secure the payment of any or all of such bonds, 7 8 notes, or other evidences of indebtedness, the revenues to be 9 received by the Authority from a lease agreement or loan agreement shall be pledged, and, for the purpose of setting 10 11 forth the covenants and undertakings of the Authority in 12 connection with the issuance of the bonds, notes, or other 13 evidences of indebtedness and the issuance of any additional bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness payable from 14 15 such revenues, income, or other funds to be derived from 16 projects, the Authority may execute and deliver a mortgage or 17 trust agreement. A remedy for any breach or default of the terms of any mortgage or trust agreement by the Authority may 18 19 be by mandamus proceeding in the appropriate circuit court to 20 compel performance and compliance under the terms of the mortgage or trust agreement, but the trust agreement may 21 22 prescribe by whom or on whose behalf the action may be 23 instituted.

(f) Bonds or notes shall be secured as provided in the 24 authorizing ordinance which may include, notwithstanding any 25 26 other provision of this Act, in addition to any other security, 27 a specific pledge, assignment of and lien on, or security 28 interest in any or all revenues or money of the Authority, from 29 whatever source, which may, by law, be used for debt service 30 purposes and a specific pledge, or assignment of and lien on, 31 or security interest in any funds or accounts established or 32 provided for by ordinance of the Authority authorizing the issuance of the bonds or notes. 33

34 (g) The State of Illinois pledges to and agrees with the 35 holders of the bonds and notes of the Authority issued pursuant 36 to this Section that the State will not limit or alter the

1 rights and powers vested in the Authority by this Act so as to 2 impair the terms of any contract made by the Authority with the 3 holders of bonds or notes or in any way impair the rights and 4 remedies of those holders until the bonds and notes, together 5 with interest thereon, with interest on any unpaid installments 6 of interest, and all costs and expenses in connection with any action or proceedings by or on behalf of the holders, are fully 7 met and discharged. In addition, the State pledges to and 8 agrees with the holders of the bonds and notes of the Authority 9 issued pursuant to this Section that the State will not limit 10 11 or alter the basis on which State funds are to be paid to the 12 Authority as provided in this Act, or the use of such funds, so as to impair the terms of any such contract. The Authority is 13 authorized to include these pledges and agreements of the State 14 in any contract with the holders of bonds or notes issued 15 16 pursuant to this Section.

17 (h) Not less than 30 days prior to the commitment to issue bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness for the 18 19 purpose of developing, constructing, acquiring, or improving housing or residential projects, as defined in this Act, the 20 Authority shall provide notice to the Executive Director of the 21 Illinois Housing Development Authority. Within 30 days after 22 23 the notice is provided, the Illinois Housing Development Authority shall, in writing, either express interest in 24 25 financing the project or notify the Authority that it is not 26 interested in providing financing and that the Authority may 27 finance the project or seek alternative financing.

28 Section 40. Bonds and notes; exemption from taxation. The 29 creation of the Authority is in all respects for the benefit of 30 the people of Illinois and for the improvement of their health, 31 safety, welfare, comfort, and security, and its purposes are public purposes. In consideration thereof, the notes and bonds 32 33 of the Authority issued pursuant to this Act and the income from these notes and bonds may be free from all taxation by the 34 State or its political subdivisions, exempt from estate, 35

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1 transfer, and inheritance taxes. The exemption from taxation 2 provided by the preceding sentence shall apply to the income on 3 any notes or bonds of the Authority only if the Authority in 4 its sole judgment determines that the exemption enhances the 5 marketability of the bonds or notes or reduces the interest 6 rates that would otherwise be borne by the bonds or notes. For purposes of Section 250 of the Illinois Income Tax Act, the 7 8 exemption of the Authority shall terminate after all of the 9 bonds have been paid. The amount of such income that shall be added and then subtracted on the Illinois income tax return of 10 11 a taxpayer, subject to Section 203 of the Illinois Income Tax Act, from federal adjusted gross income or federal taxable 12 13 income in computing Illinois base income shall be the interest net of any bond premium amortization. 14

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Section 45. Acquisition.

16 (a) The Authority may, but need not, acquire title to any17 project with respect to which it exercises its authority.

18 (b) The Authority shall have power to acquire by purchase, 19 lease, gift, or otherwise any property or rights therein from any person or persons, the State of Illinois, any municipal 20 corporation, any local unit of government, the government of 21 22 the United States and any agency or instrumentality of the 23 United States, any body politic, or any county useful for its purposes, whether improved for the purposes of any prospective 24 25 project or unimproved. The Authority may also accept any 26 donation of funds for its purposes from any of these sources.

27 (c) The Authority shall have power to develop, construct, 28 and improve, either under its own direction or through 29 collaboration with any approved applicant, or to acquire, 30 through purchase or otherwise, any project, using for this 31 purpose the proceeds derived from its sale of revenue bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness or governmental loans 32 or grants and shall have the power to hold title to those 33 projects in the name of the Authority. 34

(d) The Authority shall have the power to enter into

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1 intergovernmental agreements with the State of Illinois, the 2 counties of Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, Champaign, Vermilion, 3 Douglas, Moultrie, Shelby, Coles, or Edgar, the Illinois 4 Finance Authority, the Development Illinois Housing 5 Development Authority, the Illinois Education Facilities Authority, the Illinois Farm Development Authority, the Rural 6 7 Bond Bank, the United States government and any agency or 8 instrumentality of the United States, any unit of local government located within the territory of the Authority, or 9 10 any other unit of government to the extent allowed by Article 10 of the Illinois Constitution and the 11 VII, Section 12 Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.

(e) The Authority shall have the power to share employees with other units of government, including agencies of the United States, agencies of the State of Illinois, and agencies or personnel of any unit of local government.

(f) The Authority shall have the power to exercise powers and issue bonds as if it were a municipality so authorized in Divisions 12.1, 74, 74.1, 74.3, and 74.5 of Article 11 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

21 Section 55. Designation of depository. The Authority shall 22 biennially designate a national or State bank or banks as 23 depositories of its money. Such depositories shall he designated only within the State and upon condition that bonds 24 25 approved as to form and surety by the Authority and at least 26 equal in amount to the maximum sum expected to be on deposit at 27 any one time shall be first given by such depositories to the 28 Authority, such bonds to be conditioned for the safe keeping 29 and prompt repayment of such deposits. When any of the funds of 30 the Authority shall be deposited by the treasurer in any such 31 depository, the treasurer and the sureties on his or her official bond shall, to such extent, be exempt from liability 32 33 for the loss of any such deposited funds by reason of the failure, bankruptcy, or any other act or default of such 34 depository; provided that the Authority may accept assignments 35

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of collateral by any depository of its funds to secure such deposits to the same extent and conditioned in the same manner as assignments of collateral are permitted by law to secure deposits of the funds of any city.

5 Section 60. Taxation prohibited. The Authority shall have 6 no right or authority to levy any tax or special assessment, to 7 pledge the credit of the State or any other subdivision or 8 municipal corporation thereof, or to incur any obligation 9 enforceable upon any property, either within or without the 10 territory of the Authority.

11 Section 65. Fees. The Authority may collect fees and 12 charges in connection with its loans, commitments, and 13 servicing and may provide technical assistance in the 14 development of the region.

15 Section 70. Reports. The Authority shall annually submit a 16 report of its finances to the Auditor General. The Authority 17 shall annually submit a report of its activities to the 18 Governor and to the General Assembly.

Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.