

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 Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by changing Section 605-410 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-410) (was 20 ILCS 605/46.19d)

8 Sec. 605-410. Rural community development. The Department
9 shall provide for staff for and administer a program in which
10 the Department shall plan and coordinate State efforts designed
11 to aid and stimulate the development of rural communities as
12 well as other communities with special needs in order to
13 improve their competitiveness for business retention,
14 expansion, and attraction. Among other duties, the Department,
15 through the program, may do all of the following:

16 (1) Provide information, technical support, and assistance
17 to local officials, including, but not limited to, assistance
18 in grant applications, developing economic development
19 strategies, and complying with State and federal laws and rules
20 and regulations affecting local governments. All State
21 agencies shall cooperate with the program to provide the
22 necessary information, materials, and assistance to enable the
23 Department to carry out its function in the program in an
24 effective manner. Each agency shall designate an individual to
25 serve as liaison to the program to provide information and
26 materials and to respond to requests for assistance from
27 communities selecting to work through this program.

28 (2) Work with agencies in developing flexible regulations
29 through a regulatory review program.

30 (3) Evaluate and review the impact of existing economic
31 development programs on the rural and special need communities
32 selecting to work through this program.

1 (4) Assist the communities in conducting self-assessments
2 to identify specific industries and businesses in need of
3 targeted assistance as well as actions that the community might
4 take to become more competitive for business retention,
5 expansion, and attraction.

6 (5) Assist in formulating specific and measurable economic
7 development objectives for rural and special need communities
8 selecting to work through the program.

9 (6) Administer the Rural Diversification Act.

10 (7) Provide grants for the purposes described in this
11 Section with funds as appropriated by the General Assembly.

12 In making grants under this Section, the Department shall,
13 subject to appropriation, develop a program to make grants to
14 municipalities and counties for the purpose of funding local
15 development organizations. Under this program, a county or
16 municipality may apply to the Department for a grant to be
17 awarded to the municipality or county to be used by a local
18 development organization in that county or municipality for the
19 purpose of fostering local or regional economic development.

20 For purposes of this Section, "local development
21 organization" means a private or public entity organized for
22 the purpose of the economic development within a municipality,
23 county, or region of the State.

24 All grant awards under this program are subject to
25 appropriation and may be used for any of the following:

26 (1) expenses related to the start-up or expansion of a
27 local development organization;

28 (2) local or regional economic development planning
29 and related studies; and

30 (3) any other specific use authorized by Department
31 rule relating to the start-up or expansion of and economic
32 planning by a local economic development organization.

33 The Department may adopt any rules necessary to implement
34 and operate this program.

35 (Source: P.A. 91-239, eff. 1-1-00.)