

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 Human Services Act is amended
5 by adding Section 10-32 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1305/10-32 new)

7 Sec. 10-32. Task Force on the Condition of African American
8 Men in Illinois.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that African
10 American men: (1) are disproportionately less likely to
11 complete high school and to obtain a post-secondary education;
12 (2) are more likely to be incarcerated or on parole; (3) are
13 more likely to have lower lifetime economic earnings; (4) are
14 more likely to have been a part of the child welfare
15 population; (5) are more likely to have a shorter life
16 expectancy; and (6) are more likely to have health problems,
17 such as HIV/AIDS, drug dependency, heart disease, obesity, and
18 diabetes. The General Assembly further finds and declares that
19 the State of Illinois has a compelling interest in determining
20 the causes of these problems and in developing appropriate
21 remedies.

22 (b) The Task Force on the Condition of African American Men
23 in Illinois is created within the Department of Human Services.

1 Within 60 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act
2 of the 95th General Assembly, the President of the Senate, the
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of
4 the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House of
5 Representatives shall each appoint 2 members to the Task Force.
6 In addition, the Director or Secretary of each of the
7 following, or his or her designee, are members: the Department
8 of Human Services, the Department of Corrections, the
9 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the
10 Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of
11 Human Rights, the Illinois State Board of Education, the
12 Illinois Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Community
13 College Board. Members shall not receive compensation, but
14 shall be reimbursed for their necessary expenses from
15 appropriations made for that purpose. The Department of Human
16 Services shall provide staff and other assistance to the Task
17 Force.

18 (c) The purposes of the Task Force are as follows: to
19 determine the causal factors for the condition of African
20 American men; to inventory State programs and initiatives that
21 serve to improve the condition of African American men; to
22 identify gaps in services to African American men; and to
23 develop strategies to reduce duplication of services and to
24 maximize coordination between State agencies, providers, and
25 educational institutions, including developing benchmarks to
26 measure progress.

1 (d) The Task Force shall report its findings and
2 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by
3 December 31, 2008.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
5 becoming law.