

1 AN ACT concerning human rights.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds as follows:

7 (1) The population and demographic makeup of the State  
8 of Illinois make the appreciation, tolerance, and  
9 acceptance of diverse cultures imperative.

10 (2) No person or group of people should have to live in  
11 fear because of their race, ethnicity, culture, sexual  
12 orientation, or religious beliefs.

13 (3) The manifestation of discrimination in the form of  
14 violence has a negative impact not only on the victim, but  
15 also his or her community, and can have a lasting adverse  
16 effect on our society.

17 (4) Stereotypical thinking and biases still plague our  
18 society.

19 (5) Illinois has a strong tradition of combating  
20 discrimination and hate-based violence by statutorily  
21 addressing crimes such as aggravated battery, theft,  
22 criminal trespassing, disorderly conduct, and telephone  
23 harassment committed because of the victim's race, color,

1           creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, or  
2           disability.

3           (6) We must continue to work to build a society that is  
4           bias and hate free so that our children are protected  
5           against discrimination, punishment, and violence that are  
6           based on race, ethnicity, color, creed, religious belief,  
7           sexual orientation, or social status.

8           Section 10. Establishment of Commission.

9           (a) The Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes is  
10          established. The Commission shall consist of a chairperson and  
11          20 additional members appointed by the Governor with the advice  
12          and consent of the Senate. The membership may include, but is  
13          not limited to, persons who are active in and knowledgeable  
14          about the areas of law enforcement, the criminal and civil  
15          justice systems, education, human rights, business and  
16          industry, arts and culture, social services, and religion.  
17          Terms of the members shall be staggered so that 10 of the  
18          initial members shall serve until March 1, 2009, 10 of the  
19          initial members and the initial chairperson shall serve until  
20          March 1, 2011, and thereafter each member shall serve for a  
21          term of 4 years. Members shall serve until their successors are  
22          appointed and qualified. Any vacancy in the membership of the  
23          Council shall be filled by the Governor with the advice and  
24          consent of the Senate for the unexpired term. Members shall  
25          serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses.

1           (b) The Commission shall be provided assistance and  
2 necessary staff support services by the agencies of State  
3 government involved in the issues to be addressed by it.

4           Section 15. Purposes of Commission. The purposes of the  
5 Commission include, but are not limited to, the following:

6           (1) To work in partnership with community leaders,  
7 educators, religious leaders, social service agencies,  
8 elected officials, and the public to identify and uproot  
9 sources of discrimination and bias at the source.

10           (2) To work with local governments, law enforcement  
11 officials and prosecutors, educators, and community  
12 organizations by assisting with the development of  
13 resources, training, and information that allow for a swift  
14 and efficient response to hate-motivated crimes and  
15 incidents.

16           (3) To work with educators throughout Illinois on  
17 issues concerning discrimination and hate, teaching  
18 acceptance, and embracing diversity at academic  
19 institutions.

20           (4) To help ensure that this State's laws addressing  
21 discrimination and hate-related violence are widely known  
22 and applied correctly to help eradicate and prevent crimes  
23 based on discrimination and intolerance.

24           (5) To make recommendations to the Governor and the  
25 General Assembly for statutory and programmatic changes

1 necessary to eliminate discrimination and hate-based  
2 violence.

3 (6) To help implement recommendations by working with  
4 State agencies, the General Assembly, the business  
5 community, the social service community, and other  
6 organizations.

7 Section 20. Annual report. The Commission shall submit a  
8 report to the Governor and the General Assembly by March 30 of  
9 each year.

10 Section 25. Other laws. Nothing in this Act shall be  
11 construed to contravene any federal law or any other State law.

12 Section 30. Effect on Executive Order. This Act supersedes  
13 Executive Order No. 8 (2005).

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
15 becoming law.