

SB1746



95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

SB1746

Introduced 2/9/2007, by Sen. William Delgado

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Latino Family Commission Act and the Illinois Latino Family Commission. Sets forth the purpose and the composition of the Commission. Provides for the funding of the Commission. Provides that the Commission shall annually report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the Commission's progress towards its goals and objectives. Effective immediately.

LRB095 11090 CMK 31417 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning Latino families.

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 Illinois Latino Family Commission Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative Findings. It is the policy of this
7 State to promote family preservation and to strengthen
8 families.

9 Latinos are well represented among the families of
10 Illinois. The Illinois Latino population is the fifth largest
11 in the nation. Over 14% of the estimated 12,000,000 people that
12 live in Illinois are Latinos. According to the 2000 Census
13 figures, more than 1,750,000 Latinos make Illinois their home.
14 This figure represents a 69.2% increase from the 1990 Census
15 figures compared to about 3.5% for non-Latinos. The Latino
16 population explosion accounted for two-thirds of the total
17 population change in Illinois and it is visible throughout the
18 State.

19 In Cook County alone, the Latino population has increased
20 to about 1,071,740. In the 6 county region including Cook
21 County, nearly 69% of new residents were Hispanic. Roughly
22 23.7% of Kane County residents are Latino. In Lake County,
23 Latinos make up 14.4% of the total county population.

1 Latinos are not only the fastest growing ethnic group in
2 the State, they are also the youngest. The median age for
3 Latinos in Illinois is 25, compared to 36 for non-Latinos.
4 Despite unprecedented population growth, Latinos lag behind in
5 major indicators of well-being relative to education, health,
6 employment, and child welfare, as well as representation
7 throughout the State. Moreover, Latino children and families
8 present unique linguistic, cultural, and immigration issues
9 for the State.

10 Latinos have a well-established presence in the child
11 welfare system. Of the total 86,973 children that were reported
12 abused or neglected in Fiscal Year 2001, about 8,442 or 9.7%
13 were Hispanic children. About 25% of these hotline reports were
14 indicated, for a total of 2,155 Latino children in Fiscal Year
15 2001. As of August 2003, there were about 1,367 open Latino
16 child abuse cases in Illinois. This figure is only slightly
17 lower than the 1,491 open Latino child cases reported for the
18 previous fiscal year. Hispanic cases make up about 6% of all
19 open child cases (excluding adoption assistance and home of
20 parent living arrangement). Latino families receiving services
21 make up about 16% of all intact family cases. It is estimated
22 that between 60% and 80% of all Latino families involved with
23 the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (IDCFS)
24 will need bilingual services at some point during the time
25 their case is open. However, IDCFS struggles to meet the demand
26 for bilingual services. There are similar examples throughout

1 the State demonstrating that Illinois lacks a unified and
2 comprehensive strategy for addressing the unique needs of
3 Latino families.

4 Latino families remain outside of the margins of
5 opportunities in the State. There are tremendous challenges
6 faced by Latino families and children in the State. Clearly,
7 the growing Latino presence demands that government, child and
8 family advocates, and other key stakeholders come together to
9 identify and implement policy strategies that can create an
10 infrastructure of support for Latino families in the State.
11 Building this needed infrastructure of policies must involve
12 multiple State agencies. The Illinois Latino Family Commission
13 shall lead the effort, advising the Governor and assisting
14 State agencies with this task.

15 Section 10. Established. The Illinois Latino Family
16 Commission is established.

17 Section 15. Purpose and objectives.

18 (a) The purpose of the Illinois Latino Family Commission is
19 to advise the Governor and General Assembly, as well as work
20 directly with State agencies to improve and expand existing
21 policies, services, programs, and opportunities for Latino
22 families. The Illinois Latino Family Commission will guide the
23 efforts of and collaborate with State agencies, including: the
24 Department of Aging, the Department of Children and Family

1 Services, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,
2 the Department of Corrections, the Department of Human
3 Services, the Department of Public Aid, the Department of
4 Public Health, the Department of Transportation, and others.
5 This will be achieved primarily by:

6 (1) monitoring and commenting on existing and proposed
7 legislation and programs designed to address the needs of
8 Latinos in Illinois;

9 (2) assisting State agencies in developing programs,
10 services, public policies, and research strategies that
11 will expand and enhance the social and economic well being
12 of Latino children and families;

13 (3) facilitating the participation and representation
14 of Latinos in the development, implementation, and
15 planning of policies, programs, and services; and

16 (4) promoting research efforts to document the impact
17 of policies and programs on Latino families.

18 The work of the Illinois Latino Family Commission shall
19 include the use of existing reports, research, and planning
20 efforts, procedures, and programs.

21 Section 20. Appointment; terms. The Illinois Latino Family
22 Commission shall be comprised of 15 members. Members shall be
23 recommended by the Advisory Board and appointed by the
24 Governor. Each member shall have working knowledge of human
25 services, community development, and economic public policies

1 in Illinois. The Governor shall appoint the chairperson or
2 chairpersons.

3 The members shall reflect regional representation to
4 ensure that the needs of Latino families and children
5 throughout the State are met. The members shall be selected
6 from a variety of disciplines. They shall represent a
7 partnership and collaborative effort between public and
8 private agencies, the business sector, and community based
9 human services organizations.

10 Members shall serve 3 year terms, except in the case of
11 initial appointments. Five members, as determined by lot, shall
12 be appointed to one year terms; 5 members shall be appointed to
13 2 year terms; and 5 members shall be appointed to 3 year terms,
14 so that the terms are staggered. Members will serve without
15 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for Commission related
16 expenses.

17 The Department on Aging, the Department of Children and
18 Family Services, the Department of Commerce and Economic
19 Opportunity, the Department of Corrections, the Department of
20 Human Services, the Department of Public Aid, the Department of
21 Public Health, and the Department of Transportation shall each
22 appoint a liaison to serve ex-officio on the Commission.

23 Section 25. Funding. The Illinois Latino Family Commission
24 shall receive funding through appropriations available for its
25 purposes made to the The Department on Aging, the Department of

1 Children and Family Services, the Department of Commerce and
2 Economic Opportunity, the Department of Corrections, the
3 Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Aid, the
4 Department of Public Health, and the Department of
5 Transportation. The funding allocation for the Commission
6 shall be no less than \$500,000.

7 Section 30. Reporting. The Illinois Latino Family
8 Commission shall annually report to the Governor and the
9 General Assembly on the Commission's progress towards its goals
10 and objectives.

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
12 becoming law.