



## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

SB1864

Introduced 9/18/2007, by Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

30 ILCS 105/5.701 new

30 ILCS 105/5.608 rep.

Creates the Council on Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2007. Provides that the Department of Human Services shall implement a fatherhood initiative to be directed by the Council on Responsible Fatherhood. Sets forth the goals of the initiative. Creates the Council on Responsible Fatherhood consisting of 21 members. Sets forth the duties and powers of the Council. Provides that grants, contributions, and other funds received by the Council must be deposited into the Responsible Fathers Fund. Provides that any moneys remaining in the Responsible Fatherhood Fund shall be transferred to the Responsible Fathers Fund and the Responsible Fatherhood Fund shall be dissolved. Repeals the Responsible Fatherhood Fund. Repeals the new Act on July 1, 2009. Effective immediately, except that the provision repealing the Responsible Fatherhood Fund takes effect on January 1, 2008.

LRB095 13618 WGH 39322 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning fatherhood.

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 Council on Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2007.

6 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to promote  
7 the recognition of the importance of the participation of both  
8 parents in the lives of their children. While social policy and  
9 practice have often focused on the difficulties of raising a  
10 child in a single parent family and have often created barriers  
11 to the involvement of both parents in their child's life, the  
12 purpose of this Act is to promote a social policy and practice  
13 that values the contribution that each parent brings to the  
14 family unit.

15 Section 10. Fatherhood initiative.

16 (a) The purpose of this Act shall be implemented through a  
17 fatherhood initiative located within the Department of Human  
18 Services and directed by the Council on Responsible Fatherhood  
19 created by this Act.

20 (b) The goals of the fatherhood initiative are to increase  
21 the awareness of the problems created when a child grows up  
22 without the presence of a responsible father; to identify

1 obstacles that impede or prevent the involvement of responsible  
2 fathers in the lives of their children; to identify strategies  
3 that are successful in overcoming identified obstacles and in  
4 encouraging responsible fatherhood; and to facilitate the  
5 transition from current policies, perceptions, and practices  
6 that adversely affect the participation of fathers in their  
7 children's lives to policies, perceptions, and practices that  
8 promote the contributions of responsible fathers. The  
9 fatherhood initiative must promote positive interaction  
10 between fathers and their children. While the emphasis of the  
11 program must be on the population of children whose families  
12 have received or are receiving public assistance, the program  
13 may not exclude other populations of children for which the  
14 program is appropriate.

15 (c) The fatherhood initiative must include, but is not  
16 limited to, the following:

17 (1) The promotion of public education concerning the  
18 financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood.

19 (2) The provision of assistance to men in preparing for  
20 the legal, financial, and emotional responsibilities of  
21 fatherhood.

22 (3) The promotion of the establishment of paternity  
23 upon the birth of a child.

24 (4) The encouragement of fathers in fostering an  
25 emotional connection to children and providing financial  
26 support to children.

1           (5) The establishment of support mechanisms for  
2 fathers developing and maintaining relationships with  
3 their children.

4           (6) The identification and promotion of methods that  
5 reduce the negative outcomes experienced by children  
6 affected by divorce, separation, and disputes concerning  
7 custody and visitation.

8           (7) The integration of State and local services  
9 available to families.

10           Section 15. Council on Responsible Fatherhood.

11           (a) The Council on Responsible Fatherhood is created to  
12 carry out the purposes, goals, and initiatives of this Act. The  
13 Council consists of 21 members appointed by the Governor.  
14 Members appointed by the Governor must be chosen on the basis  
15 of their interest in and experience with children and families.  
16 Members of the Council shall be appointed for 2-year terms,  
17 except for an appointment to fill an unexpired term, in which  
18 event the appointment shall be for the remainder of the  
19 unexpired term. In addition, the Speaker of the House of  
20 Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of  
21 Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Minority  
22 Leader of the Senate shall each appoint one ex officio, non  
23 voting member. The Council must choose one member of the  
24 Council to be the Chairperson. A majority of the members  
25 appointed by the Governor constitutes a quorum. Members shall

1 serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for their  
2 actual expenses in carrying out their duties as members of the  
3 Council. The Council shall meet at least quarterly, and the  
4 chairperson and Department of Human Services may convene the  
5 Council at any time. Subject to appropriation, the Department  
6 of Human Services shall provide support to the Council.

7 (b) The Council has the following duties:

8 (1) To develop a comprehensive plan that promotes the  
9 positive involvement of fathers in their children's lives.

10 (2) To evaluate State programs, government policies,  
11 and community initiatives related to fatherhood and to make  
12 recommendations regarding those programs, policies, and  
13 initiatives to the Governor and the General Assembly.

14 (3) To convene a statewide symposium in order to  
15 discuss and resolve issues related to responsible  
16 fatherhood and the importance of the participation of both  
17 parents in their children's lives.

18 (4) Subject to appropriation, to develop criteria for  
19 and to issue requests for proposals for grants for  
20 responsible fatherhood projects and activities related to  
21 responsible fatherhood projects that are approved by the  
22 Council.

23 (5) To receive grants, contributions, and other funds  
24 for the purpose of projects and activities related to  
25 responsible fatherhood.

26 (6) To submit a report, on or before January 1 of each

1 year, to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning  
2 its findings and recommendations.

3 Section 20. Responsible Fathers Fund. Grants,  
4 contributions, and other funds received by the Council on  
5 Responsible Fatherhood must be deposited into the Responsible  
6 Fathers Fund, a special fund created in the State treasury,  
7 and, subject to appropriation and as directed by the Department  
8 of Human Services may be expended for the purposes of this Act.  
9 In addition, upon the creation of the Responsible Fathers Fund,  
10 the State Comptroller shall direct and the State Treasurer  
11 shall transfer any moneys remaining in the Responsible  
12 Fatherhood Fund into the Responsible Fathers Fund. Upon  
13 completion of the transfer, the Responsible Fatherhood Fund  
14 shall be dissolved.

15 Section 25. Repeal. This Act is repealed on July 1, 2009.

16 Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
17 Section 5.701 as follows:

18 (30 ILCS 105/5.701 new)

19 Sec. 5.701. The Responsible Fathers Fund.

20 (30 ILCS 105/5.608 rep.)

21 Section 95. The State Finance Act is amended by repealing

1 Section 5.608.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
3 becoming law, except that Section 95 takes effect on January 1,  
4 2008.