



97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

HB1966

by Rep. Daniel J. Burke

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois and Midwest High-Speed Rail Commission Act. Contains provisions concerning the composition of the Illinois and Midwest High-Speed Rail Commission. Provides that by November 20, 2011, the Commission must prepare and issue a report recommending the best governmental structure for a public-private partnership to design, build, operate, maintain, and finance a high-speed rail system for the State. Provides that a follow-up report shall be issued by October 1, 2012. Repeals the Act on January 1, 2015. Effective immediately.

LRB097 06566 HEP 46651 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

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 and Midwest High-Speed Rail Commission Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Commission" means the Illinois and Midwest High-Speed
8 Rail Commission.

9 "High-speed rail" means a system of new electrified tracks
10 designed primarily for trains capable of traveling at speeds in
11 excess of 150 miles per hour.

12 Section 10. Composition of the Commission.

13 (a) The Commission shall be composed of 19 members as
14 follows:

15 (1) 12 public members appointed by the Governor; and

16 (2) 7 ex-officio members as follows:

17 (A) the Illinois Secretary of Transportation;

18 (B) the Director of Commerce and Economic
19 Opportunity;

20 (C) the Executive Director of the Illinois State
21 Toll Highway Authority;

22 (D) a member of the House of Representatives

1 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives;

3 (E) a member of the House of Representatives
4 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
5 Representatives;

6 (F) a member of the Senate appointed by the
7 President of the Senate; and

8 (G) a member of the Senate appointed by the
9 Minority Leader of the Senate.

10 (b) A person appointed as a public member of the Commission
11 must be a resident of this State. Public members of the
12 Commission must include the following: (i) local elected
13 officials who have expressed interest in high-speed rail; (ii)
14 former elected officials with transportation policy expertise;
15 (iii) individuals with professional expertise in long-term
16 financing of infrastructure; and (iv) individuals with
17 expertise in transportation or railroad infrastructure
18 projects. The appointed members shall reflect the geographic
19 diversity of the State and shall include representation from
20 all regions of the State.

21 (c) Commission members shall be appointed within 45 days
22 after the effective date of this Act.

23 (d) The Governor shall designate one public member of the
24 Commission to serve as the chair of the Commission and one
25 public member to serve as the vice-chair of the Commission.

1 Section 15. Ex-officio members; eligibility; designation
2 of representative.

3 (a) An ex-officio member of the Commission vacates the
4 person's position on the Commission if the person ceases to
5 hold the position that qualifies the person for service on the
6 Commission.

7 (b) An ex-officio member may designate a representative to
8 serve on the Commission in the member's absence. A
9 representative designated under this subsection by the
10 Illinois Secretary of Transportation, the Director of Commerce
11 and Economic Opportunity, or the Executive Director of the
12 Illinois State Toll Highway Authority must be an officer or
13 employee of the State agency that employs the ex-officio
14 member.

15 Section 20. Compensation; expenses.

16 (a) A public member of the Commission is not entitled to
17 compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for the travel
18 expenses incurred by the member while transacting Commission
19 business.

20 (b) An ex-officio member's service on the Commission is an
21 additional duty of the underlying position that qualifies the
22 member for service on the Commission. The entitlement of an
23 ex-officio member to compensation or to reimbursement for
24 travel expenses incurred while transacting Commission business
25 is governed by the law that applies to the member's service in

1 that underlying position, and any payment to the member for
2 either purpose must be made from an appropriation that may be
3 used for the purpose and is available to the State agency that
4 the member serves in that underlying position.

5 Section 25. Meetings; quorum.

6 (a) The Commission shall meet at least monthly at the times
7 and places in this State that the chair designates until April
8 2011 and at least quarterly thereafter.

9 (b) Members of the Commission may participate in Commission
10 meetings by teleconference or video conference.

11 (c) A majority of the members of the Commission constitute
12 a quorum for transacting Commission business.

13 Section 30. General powers and duties of the Commission.

14 (a) The Commission shall:

15 (1) Prepare and issue a report to the Governor, the
16 General Assembly, and the public recommending the best
17 governmental structure for a public-private partnership to
18 design, build, operate, maintain, and finance a high-speed
19 rail system for Illinois and the Midwest. The report must
20 include specific recommendations for legislation, if
21 statutory change is required, or specific administrative
22 regulations, if regulatory change is required, to
23 implement the recommended high-speed rail system. The
24 report must include recommended sources for the funding of

1 a high-speed rail system including private sources of
2 capital and revenue bonds. The report must contain
3 recommendations for integrating the high-speed rail system
4 into existing and planned Amtrak expansions, airports, and
5 public transportation systems. The report must include
6 recommendations for federal, State, and local actions for
7 the development and implementation of a high-speed rail
8 system. The report must be issued by November 20, 2011.

9 (2) Prepare a follow-up report that details the status
10 of recommendations issued by the Commission and any revised
11 and updated recommendations based on further public and
12 stakeholder input. The follow-up report must be issued by
13 October 1, 2012.

14 (3) Develop a process to receive public and stakeholder
15 input on opinions and proposals for building, designing,
16 maintaining, operating, and financing a high-speed rail
17 system for Illinois and the Midwest. The process must
18 include the solicitation and receipt of formal expressions
19 of interest and other testimony from global high-speed rail
20 operators including without limitation Amtrak.

21 (4) Solicit and receive formal testimony, both written
22 and oral, from representatives of the other states in the
23 Midwest including without limitation representatives from
24 units of local government.

25 (5) Work collaboratively with the Department of
26 Transportation on any planning projects for high-speed

1 rail administered by the Department to comply with federal
2 high-speed rail requirements including without limitation
3 the solicitation of public input and comments.

4 (b) In implementing subsection (a), the Commission must
5 consult with and receive testimony from global high-speed rail
6 operators including without limitation Amtrak.

7 (c) Nothing in this Act shall preclude the Department of
8 Transportation from planning for high-speed rail.

9 Section 35. Funding. The Illinois Department of
10 Transportation may provide staff and other support to the
11 Commission from money available to the Department that may be
12 used for this purpose. The General Assembly may also
13 specifically appropriate money to the Department to provide
14 staff and other support to the Commission.

15 The Commission may accept monetary gifts and grants from
16 any public or private source. The Commission may also accept
17 in-kind gifts.

18 Section 95. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,
19 2015.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.