

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 20 members as  
14 follows:

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

16 (2) 8 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) the Chairman of the Illinois Commerce

1 Commission;

2 (E) a member of the House of Representatives  
3 appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives;

5 (F) a member of the House of Representatives  
6 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
7 Representatives;

8 (G) a member of the Senate appointed by the  
9 President of the Senate; and

10 (H) a member of the Senate appointed by the  
11 Minority Leader of the Senate.

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

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

25 (d) The Governor shall designate one public member of the  
26 Commission to serve as the chair of the Commission and one

1 public member to serve as the vice-chair of the Commission.

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

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

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

16 Section 20. Compensation; expenses.

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

21 (b) An ex-officio member's service on the Commission is an  
22 additional duty of the underlying position that qualifies the  
23 member for service on the Commission. The entitlement of an  
24 ex-officio member to compensation or to reimbursement for

1 travel expenses incurred while transacting Commission business  
2 is governed by the law that applies to the member's service in  
3 that underlying position, and any payment to the member for  
4 either purpose must be made from an appropriation that may be  
5 used for the purpose and is available to the State agency that  
6 the member serves in that underlying position.

7 Section 25. Meetings; quorum.

8 (a) The Commission shall meet at least monthly at the times  
9 and places in this State that the chair designates until  
10 January 2012 and at least quarterly thereafter.

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

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

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

16 (a) The Commission shall:

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

1       implement the recommended high-speed rail system. The  
2       report must include recommended sources for the funding of  
3       a high-speed rail system including private sources of  
4       capital and revenue bonds. The report must contain  
5       recommendations for integrating the high-speed rail system  
6       into existing and planned Amtrak expansions, airports, and  
7       public transportation systems. The report must include  
8       recommendations for federal, State, and local actions for  
9       the development and implementation of a high-speed rail  
10      system. The report must be issued by April 20, 2012.

11       (2) Prepare a follow-up report that details the status  
12      of recommendations issued by the Commission and any revised  
13      and updated recommendations based on further public and  
14      stakeholder input. The follow-up report must be issued by  
15      February 1, 2013.

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

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

1           (5) Work collaboratively with the Department of  
2           Transportation on any planning projects for high-speed  
3           rail administered by the Department to comply with federal  
4           high-speed rail requirements including without limitation  
5           the solicitation of public input and comments.

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

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

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

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

20          Section 95. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,  
21          2015.

22          Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
23          becoming law.