

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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 Main Street Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative purpose. The General Assembly makes
7 the following findings:

8 (1) The continued economic vitality of downtown and
9 neighborhood commercial districts in our municipalities is
10 essential to community preservation, social cohesion, and
11 economic growth.

12 (2) Municipalities need to maintain their local
13 economies so that business owners will be able to provide
14 goods and services to the community, to provide employment
15 opportunities, to avoid disinvestment and economic
16 dislocations, and to develop and sustain downtown and
17 neighborhood commercial district revitalization programs
18 to address these problems.

19 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

20 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic
21 Opportunity.

22 "Director" means the Director of Commerce and Economic

1 Opportunity.

2 "Program" means the Illinois Main Street Program.

3 Section 15. Illinois Main Street Program. The Illinois Main
4 Street Program is created within the Department. In order to
5 implement the Illinois Main Street Program, the Department
6 shall do all of the following:

7 (1) Provide assistance to municipalities designated as
8 Main Street Communities, municipalities interested in
9 becoming designated through the program, and businesses,
10 property owners, organizations, and municipalities
11 undertaking a comprehensive downtown or neighborhood
12 commercial district revitalization initiative and
13 management strategy. Assistance may include, but is not
14 limited to, initial site evaluations and assessments,
15 training for local programs, training for local program
16 staff, site visits and assessments by technical
17 specialists, local program design assistance and
18 evaluation, and continued local program on-site
19 assistance.

20 (2) To the extent funds are made available, provide
21 financial assistance to municipalities or local
22 organizations to assist in initial downtown or
23 neighborhood commercial district revitalization program
24 specialized training, specific project feasibility
25 studies, market studies, and design assistance.

1 (3) Operate the Illinois Main Street Program in
2 accordance with the plan developed by the Department.

3 (4) Consider other factors the Department deems
4 necessary for the implementation of this Act.

5 Section 20. Main Street Community designation.

6 (a) The Department shall adopt criteria for the designation
7 of a Main Street Community. In establishing the criteria, the
8 Department shall consider all of the following:

9 (1) The degree of interest and commitment to
10 comprehensive downtown or neighborhood commercial district
11 revitalization and, where applicable, historic
12 preservation by both the public and private sectors.

13 (2) The evidence of potential private sector
14 investment in the downtown or neighborhood commercial
15 district.

16 (3) Where applicable, a downtown or neighborhood
17 commercial district with sufficient historic fabric to
18 become a foundation for an enhanced community image.

19 (4) The capacity of the organization to undertake a
20 comprehensive program and the financial commitment to
21 implement a long-term downtown or neighborhood commercial
22 district revitalization program that includes a commitment
23 to employ a professional program manager.

24 (5) The National Main Street Center's criteria for
25 designating official main street municipalities.

1 (6) Other factors the Department deems necessary for
2 the designation of a local program.

3 (b) Illinois Main Street shall designate local downtown or
4 neighborhood commercial district revitalization programs and
5 official local main street programs.

6 (c) The Department must approve all local downtown or
7 neighborhood commercial district revitalization program
8 boundaries. The boundaries of a local downtown or neighborhood
9 commercial district revitalization program are typically
10 defined using the pedestrian core of a traditional commercial
11 district.

12 Section 25. Illinois Main Street Plan. The Department
13 shall, in consultation with the Lieutenant Governor, develop a
14 plan for the Illinois Main Street Program. The plan shall
15 describe:

16 (1) the objectives and strategies of the Illinois Main
17 Street Program;

18 (2) how the Illinois Main Street Program will be
19 coordinated with existing federal, state, local, and
20 private sector business development and historic
21 preservation efforts;

22 (3) the means by which private investment will be
23 solicited and employed;

24 (4) the methods of selecting and providing assistance
25 to participating local programs; and

1 (5) a means to solicit private contributions for State
2 and local operations of the Illinois Main Street Program.

3 Section 30. Role of the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant
4 Governor shall be the Ambassador of the Illinois Main Street
5 Program. The Department shall advise and consult with the
6 Lieutenant Governor on the activities of the Illinois Main
7 Street Program. The Lieutenant Governor, with the assistance of
8 the Department, shall promote and encourage the success of the
9 Illinois Main Street Program.

10 Section 35. Illinois Main Street Fund. The Illinois Main
11 Street Fund is created as a special fund in the State treasury.
12 All receipts from private contributions, federal funds,
13 legislative appropriations, and fees for services, if levied,
14 must be deposited into the Fund. Subject to appropriation,
15 expenditures from the Fund may be used only for the benefit of
16 the Illinois Main Street Program.

17 Section 40. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
18 Section 5.786 as follows:

19 (30 ILCS 105/5.786 new)

20 Sec. 5.786. The Illinois Main Street Fund.