

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.

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