

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 5. The Mississippi River Coordinating Council Act
5 is amended by changing Sections 10, 15, and 20 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 4003/10)

7 Sec. 10. Mississippi River Coordinating Council.

8 (a) There is established the Mississippi River
9 Coordinating Council (Council), consisting of 16 ~~13~~ voting
10 members to be appointed by the Governor. One member shall be
11 the Lieutenant Governor who shall serve as a voting member and
12 as chairperson of the Council. The agency members of the
13 Council shall include the Directors, or their designees, of the
14 following: the Department of Agriculture, the Department of
15 Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Environmental
16 Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, the
17 Historic Preservation Agency, and the Department of
18 Transportation. In addition, the Council shall include one
19 member representing Soil and Water Conservation Districts
20 located in the proximity of the Mississippi River and its
21 tributaries, and 8 ~~6~~ members representing local communities,
22 not-for-profit organizations working to protect the
23 Mississippi River and its tributaries, businesses,

1 agriculture, recreation, conservation, and the environment, 2
2 of which must reside within a county that is adjacent to the
3 Mississippi River.

4 (b) The Governor may appoint, as ex-officio members,
5 individuals representing the interests of the states who border
6 the Mississippi River and individuals representing federal
7 agencies.

8 (c) Members of the Council shall serve 2-year terms, except
9 that of the initial appointments, 5 members shall be appointed
10 to serve 3-year terms and 4 members to serve one-year terms.

11 (d) The Council shall meet at least quarterly.

12 (e) The Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall be
13 responsible for the operations of the Council, including,
14 without limitation, funding and oversight of the Council's
15 activities. The Office may reimburse members of the Council for
16 travel expenses.

17 (f) This Section is subject to the provisions of Section
18 405-500 of the Department of Central Management Services Law.

19 (g) The members of the Council shall appoint one member of
20 the Council to serve as the Illinois representative to the
21 National Mississippi River Parkway Commission.

22 (Source: P.A. 94-996, eff. 1-1-07.)

23 (20 ILCS 4003/15)

24 Sec. 15. Duties of the Council.

25 (a) The Council shall:

1 (1) periodically review activities and programs
2 administered by State and federal agencies that directly
3 impact the Mississippi River and its tributaries;

4 (2) work with local communities and organizations to
5 encourage partnerships that enhance awareness and
6 capabilities to address watershed and water resource
7 concerns and to encourage strategies that protect,
8 restore, and expand critical habitats and soil
9 conservation and water quality practices;

10 (3) work with State and federal agencies to optimize
11 the expenditure of funds affecting the Mississippi River
12 and its tributaries;

13 (4) advise and make recommendations to the Governor and
14 State agencies on ways to better coordinate the expenditure
15 of appropriated funds affecting the Mississippi River and
16 its tributaries;

17 (5) encourage local communities to develop water
18 management plans to address stormwater, erosion, flooding,
19 sedimentation, and pollution problems and encourage
20 projects for the natural conveyance and storage of
21 floodwaters, the enhancement of wildlife habitat and
22 outdoor recreation opportunities, the recovery,
23 management, and conservation of the Mississippi River and
24 its tributaries, the preservation of farmland, prairies,
25 and forests, and the use of measurable economic development
26 efforts that are compatible with the ecological health of

1 the State; and

2 (6) help identify possible sources of additional
3 funding for Mississippi River water management projects
4 and projects and activities related to the Great River
5 Road, a national scenic and recreational highway.

6 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Council may pay for a
7 membership to the National Mississippi River Commission.

8 (Source: P.A. 94-996, eff. 1-1-07.)

9 (20 ILCS 4003/20)

10 Sec. 20. Agency duties. State agencies represented on the
11 Council shall provide to the Council, on request, information
12 concerning agency programs, data, and activities that impact
13 the restoration and preservation of the Mississippi River and
14 its tributaries. The Secretary of Transportation, the Director
15 of Agriculture, the Director of the Environmental Protection
16 Agency, the Director of Historic Preservation, the Director of
17 Natural Resources, and the Director of Commerce and Economic
18 Opportunity shall each designate at least one employee from his
19 or her respective agency to assist the Council.

20 (Source: P.A. 94-996, eff. 1-1-07.)

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