

1 AN ACT concerning government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois African-American Family Commission  
5 Act is amended by changing Sections 5, 15, 20, and 25 as  
6 follows:

7 (20 ILCS 3903/5)

8 Sec. 5. Legislative findings. It is the policy of this  
9 State to promote family preservation and to preserve and  
10 strengthen families.

11 (a) Over 12 million people live in Illinois.  
12 African-Americans represent 15% of the population and 26% of  
13 the residents living in Cook County. Despite some progress over  
14 the last few decades, African-Americans in Illinois continue to  
15 lag behind other racial groups relative to indicators of  
16 well-being in education, employment, income, and health.  
17 According to the 2000 U.S. Census, just 26% of the  
18 African-American population over 25 years of age in Illinois  
19 completed their high school education; 6% held an associate's  
20 degree; less than 10% (9%) held a bachelor's degree; less than  
21 5% (3%) held a master's degree; and less than one percent held  
22 either a professional (.8%) or doctoral (.4%) degree.

23 These levels of education attainment reflect more

1 fundamental problems with retaining African-Americans in  
2 school. The Illinois State Board of Education reported that for  
3 the 2001-2002 school year, 36,373, or 6%, of students enrolled  
4 in public high schools dropped out. Thirty-nine percent of  
5 these students were African-Americans; 38% were White; 21% were  
6 Hispanic; and 2% were classified as Other.

7 Although African-Americans make up 18% of the high school  
8 population, they are disproportionately represented in the  
9 number of students who are suspended and expelled. In the  
10 2001-2002 school year, 29,068 students were suspended from  
11 school. Forty-seven percent were White, 37% were  
12 African-American, 14% were Hispanic, and 1% were classified as  
13 Other. In regards to expulsions Statewide, the total number of  
14 high school students expelled was 1,651. Forty-three percent  
15 were African-American, 41% were White, 14% were Hispanic, and  
16 2% were classified as Other. Within Chicago public schools, 448  
17 students were expelled. Seventy-seven of these students were  
18 African-American; 27% were White; 14% were Hispanic; and 4%  
19 were classified as Other. The fact that African-Americans are  
20 more likely to be suspended or expelled from school also  
21 contributes to the high dropout rate among African-American  
22 high school students.

23 In addition to educational challenges, African-Americans  
24 face challenges in the areas of employment and income. In the  
25 year 2000, the unemployment rate for African-Americans age 16  
26 years or older was 15% compared to only 6% for the total

1 Illinois population. Moreover, the median household income of  
2 African-Americans in Illinois was \$31,699 compared to \$46,590  
3 for the total Illinois population, and the percentage of  
4 African-American families below the poverty level in Illinois  
5 was 26% percent in 1999 compared to 10.7% for the total  
6 Illinois population in that same year.

7 Indicators of child welfare and criminal justice reveal  
8 still more challenges that African-American families face in  
9 Illinois. In 2000, African-American children represented 18%  
10 of children 18 years of age and under, but comprised 73% of  
11 children in substitute care. African-Americans are also  
12 overrepresented in the criminal justice population. Of the  
13 total Illinois adult inmate population in the year 2000, 65%  
14 were African-American. During this same time period,  
15 African-American youth represented 58% of the juvenile inmate  
16 population in Illinois.

17 While the leading causes of death among African-Americans  
18 are the same as those for the general population in Illinois,  
19 African-Americans have a higher rate of death per 100,000  
20 residents. The rate of overall deaths per 100,000 residents  
21 among African-Americans in the year 2000 was 1,181; 847 for  
22 Whites; and 411 for those classified as Other. The rate of  
23 cancer-related deaths per 100,000 residents by racial or ethnic  
24 groups in 2000 was: 278 African-Americans; 206 Whites; and 110  
25 of those classified as Other. The rate of diabetes-related  
26 deaths per 100,000 residents among African-Americans in 2000

1 was 41 compared to 23 for Whites and 13 for those classified as  
2 Other. The rate of deaths per 100,000 residents by heart  
3 disease among African-Americans in 2000 was 352 compared to 257  
4 for Whites and 120 for those classified as Other. The rate of  
5 deaths per 100,000 residents by stroke among African-Americans  
6 in 2000 was 75; 60 for Whites; and 35 for those classified as  
7 Other.

8 African-Americans had higher rates of smoking and obesity  
9 than other racial groups in Illinois in 2001. African-Americans  
10 accounted for more of the new adult/adolescent AIDS cases,  
11 cumulative adult/adolescent AIDS cases, and number of people  
12 living with AIDS than other racial groups in Illinois in the  
13 year 2002. Still, 23% of uninsured persons in Illinois are  
14 African-American.

15 (b) The Illinois African-American Family Commission  
16 continues to be an essential key to promoting the preservation  
17 and strengthening of families. As of the effective date of this  
18 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly, just under 13  
19 million people live in Illinois. African-Americans represent  
20 15% of the population and 25% of the residents living in Cook  
21 County. Despite some progress over the last few decades,  
22 African-Americans in Illinois continue to lag behind other  
23 racial groups relative to indicators of well-being in  
24 education, employment, income, and health. According to the  
25 2010 federal decennial census: just 28% of the African-American  
26 population over 25 years of age in Illinois completed their

1 high school education; 36% had some college or an associate's  
2 degree; less than 12% held a bachelor's degree; less than 8%  
3 held either a graduate or professional degree.

4 These levels of education attainment reflect more  
5 fundamental problems with retaining African-Americans in  
6 school. The State Board of Education reported that for the  
7 2010-2011 school year, 18,210, or 2.77%, of students enrolled  
8 in public high schools dropped out. 39.3% of these students  
9 were African-Americans; 32.6% were White; 24.2% were Hispanic;  
10 and 2% were classified as Other.

11 Although African-Americans make up 20% of the high school  
12 population, they are disproportionately represented in the  
13 number of students who are suspended and expelled. In the  
14 2011-2012 school year, 29,928 students were suspended from  
15 school. 36% were White, 34% were African-American, 26% were  
16 Hispanic, and 4% were classified as Other. With regard to  
17 expulsions statewide, the total number of high school students  
18 expelled was 982. 37% were African-American, 41% were White,  
19 21% were Hispanic, and 2% were classified as Other. Within  
20 Chicago public schools, 294 students were expelled. 80% of  
21 these students were African-American; none were White; 17% were  
22 Hispanic; and 3% were classified as Other. The fact that  
23 African-Americans are more likely to be suspended or expelled  
24 from school also contributes to the high dropout rate among  
25 African-American high school students.

26 In addition to educational challenges, African-Americans

1 face challenges in the areas of employment and income. In the  
2 year 2010, the unemployment rate for African-Americans age 16  
3 years or older was 16% compared to only 9% for the total  
4 Illinois population. Moreover, the median household income of  
5 African-Americans in Illinois was \$34,874 compared to \$60,433  
6 for the total Illinois population, and the percentage of  
7 African-American families below the poverty level in Illinois  
8 was 32% percent in 2012 compared to 15% for the total Illinois  
9 population in that same year.

10 Indicators of child welfare and criminal justice reveal  
11 still more challenges that African-American families face in  
12 Illinois. In 2010, African-American children represented 14%  
13 of children 18 years of age and under, but comprised 56% of  
14 children in substitute care. African-Americans are also  
15 overrepresented in the criminal justice population. Of the  
16 total Illinois adult inmate population in the year 2012, 57%  
17 were African-American. During this same time period,  
18 African-American youth represented 66% of the juvenile inmate  
19 population in Illinois.

20 While the leading causes of death among African-Americans  
21 are the same as those for the general population in Illinois,  
22 African-Americans have a higher rate of death per 100,000  
23 residents. The rate of overall deaths per 100,000 residents  
24 among African-Americans in the year 2010 was 898; 741 for  
25 Whites; and 458 for those classified as Other. The rate of  
26 cancer-related deaths per 100,000 residents by racial or ethnic

1 groups in 2010 was 216 for African-Americans; 179 for Whites;  
2 and 124 for those classified as Other. The rate of  
3 diabetes-related deaths per 100,000 residents among  
4 African-Americans in 2010 was 114 compared to 66 for Whites and  
5 75 for those classified as Other. The rate of deaths per  
6 100,000 residents by heart disease among African-Americans in  
7 2010 was 232 compared to 179 for Whites and 121 for those  
8 classified as Other. The rate of deaths per 100,000 residents  
9 by stroke among African-Americans in 2010 was 108; 73 for  
10 Whites; and 56 for those classified as Other.

11 African-Americans had higher rates of smoking and obesity  
12 than other racial groups in Illinois in 2013. African-Americans  
13 accounted for more of the new adult/adolescent AIDS cases,  
14 cumulative adult/adolescent AIDS cases, and number of people  
15 living with AIDS than other racial groups in Illinois in the  
16 year 2013. Still, 24% of uninsured persons in Illinois are  
17 African-American.

18 (c) These huge disparities in education, employment,  
19 income, child welfare, criminal justice, and health  
20 demonstrate the tremendous challenges facing the  
21 African-American family in Illinois. These challenges are  
22 severe. There is a need for government, child and family  
23 advocates, and other key stakeholders to create and implement  
24 public policies to address the health and social crises facing  
25 African-American families. The development of given solutions  
26 clearly transcends any one State agency and requires a

1 coordinated effort. The Illinois African-American Family  
2 Commission shall assist State agencies with this task.

3 The African-American Family Commission was created in  
4 October 1994 by Executive Order to assist the Illinois  
5 Department of Children and Family Services in developing and  
6 implementing programs and public policies that affect the  
7 State's child welfare system. The Commission has a proven track  
8 record of bringing State agencies, community providers, and  
9 consumers together to address child welfare issues. The ability  
10 of the Commission to address the above-mentioned health issues,  
11 community factors, and the personal well-being of  
12 African-American families and children has been limited due to  
13 the Executive Order's focus on child welfare. It is apparent  
14 that broader issues of health, mental health, criminal justice,  
15 education, and economic development also directly affect the  
16 health and well-being of African-American families and  
17 children. Accordingly, the role of the Illinois  
18 African-American Family Commission is hereby expanded to  
19 encompass working relationships with every department, agency,  
20 and commission within State government if any of its activities  
21 impact African-American children and families. The focus of the  
22 Commission is hereby restructured and shall exist by  
23 legislative mandate to engage State agencies in its efforts to  
24 preserve and strengthen African-American families.

25 (Source: P.A. 93-867, eff. 8-5-04.)



1 (20 ILCS 3903/15)

2 Sec. 15. Purpose and objectives.

3 (a) The purpose of the Illinois African-American Family  
4 Commission is to advise the Governor and General Assembly, as  
5 well as work directly with State agencies, to improve and  
6 expand existing policies, services, programs, and  
7 opportunities for African-American families. The Illinois  
8 African-American Family Commission shall guide the efforts of  
9 and collaborate with State agencies, including: the Department  
10 on Aging, the Department of Children and Family Services, the  
11 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the  
12 Department of Corrections, the Department of Human Services,  
13 the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the  
14 Department of Public Health, the Department of Transportation,  
15 the Department of Employment Security, and others. This shall  
16 be achieved primarily by: ~~to improve and expand existing human~~  
17 ~~services and educational and community development programs~~  
18 ~~for African Americans. This will be achieved by:~~

19 (1) Monitoring and commenting on existing and proposed  
20 legislation and programs designed to address the needs of  
21 African-Americans in Illinois;

22 (2) Assisting State agencies in developing programs,  
23 services, public policies, and research strategies that  
24 will expand and enhance the social and economic well-being  
25 of African-American children and families; ~~and~~

26 (3) Facilitating the participation of and

1 representation of African-Americans in the development,  
2 implementation, and planning of policies, programs, and  
3 ~~community-based services; and.~~

4 (4) Promoting research efforts to document the impact  
5 of policies and programs on African-American families.

6 The work of the Illinois African-American Family  
7 Commission shall include the use of existing reports, research  
8 and planning efforts, procedures, and programs.

9 (Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)

10 (20 ILCS 3903/20)

11 Sec. 20. Appointment; terms. The Illinois African-American  
12 Family Commission shall be comprised of 15 members.

13 For those seats on the Commission with terms that expire in  
14 2015, and for subsequent appointments to those seats, the  
15 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of  
16 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
17 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall each  
18 appoint one member to the Commission.

19 For those seats on the Commission with terms that expire in  
20 2016, and for subsequent appointments to those seats, the  
21 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of  
22 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
23 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall each  
24 appoint one member to the Commission.

25 For those seats on the Commission with terms that expire in

1 2017, and for subsequent appointments to those seats, the  
2 Governor shall appoint 5 members to the Commission ~~who shall be~~  
3 ~~appointed by the Governor.~~

4 Each member shall have a working knowledge of human  
5 services, community development, and economic public policies  
6 in Illinois. The Governor shall appoint the chairperson or  
7 chairpersons.

8 The members shall reflect regional representation to  
9 ensure that the needs of African-American families and children  
10 throughout the State of Illinois are met. The members shall be  
11 selected from a variety of disciplines. They shall be  
12 representative of a partnership and collaborative effort  
13 between public and private agencies, the business sector, and  
14 community-based human services organizations.

15 Members shall serve 3-year terms, except in the case of  
16 initial appointments. One-third of initially appointed  
17 members, as determined by lot, shall be appointed to 1-year  
18 terms; 1/3 shall be appointed to 2-year terms; and 1/3 shall be  
19 appointed to 3-year terms, so that the terms are staggered.  
20 Members will serve without compensation, but shall be  
21 reimbursed for Commission-related expenses.

22 The Department on Aging, the Department of Children and  
23 Family Services, the Department of Commerce and Economic  
24 Opportunity, the Department of Corrections, the Department of  
25 Human Services, the Department of Healthcare and Family  
26 Services, the Department of Public Health, the State Board of

1 Education, the Board of Higher Education, the Illinois  
2 Community College Board, the Department of Human Rights, the  
3 Capital Development Board, the Department of Labor, and the  
4 Department of Transportation shall each appoint a liaison to  
5 serve ex-officio on the Commission. The Office of the Governor,  
6 in cooperation with the State agencies appointing liaisons to  
7 the Commission under this Section, shall provide  
8 administrative support to the Commission.

9 (Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)

10 (20 ILCS 3903/25)

11 Sec. 25. Funding. The African-American Family Commission  
12 may ~~shall~~ receive funding through appropriations available for  
13 its purposes made to the Department on Aging, the Department of  
14 Children and Family Services, the Department of Commerce and  
15 Economic Opportunity, the Department of Corrections, the  
16 Department of Human Services, the Department of Healthcare and  
17 Family Services (formerly Department of Public Aid), the  
18 Department of Public Health, the State Board of Education, the  
19 Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College  
20 Board, the Department of Human Rights, the Capital Development  
21 Board, the Department of Labor, and the Department of  
22 Transportation. The Commission may also receive and expend  
23 funding from federal and private sources, including gifts,  
24 donations, and private grants.

25 (Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)

1           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
2    1, 2015.