



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB3080

by Rep. Kambium Buckner

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Intergenerational Poverty Mitigation Act. Requires the Department of Human Services to establish and maintain a system to track intergenerational poverty. Provides that the system shall identify groups that have a high risk of experiencing intergenerational poverty; identify incidents, patterns, and trends that explain or contribute to intergenerational poverty; collect data on child poverty rates; and other matters. Creates the Illinois Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission (Reform Commission) to collaborate in sharing and analyzing data and information regarding intergenerational poverty in the State, to examine such data, to implement data-driven policies and programs addressing poverty, and other matters. Creates the Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Committee to make recommendations on how the Reform Commission and the State can effectively address the needs of children affected by intergenerational poverty. Contains provisions concerning membership on both commissions, reporting requirements, and other matters. Creates the Intergenerational Poverty School Readiness Scholarship Program to provide children who have not enrolled in kindergarten access to a high-quality school readiness program. Contains provisions on eligibility requirements, coordination between the Department of Human Services and the State Board of Education to designate providers as high-quality school readiness programs, and other matters. Creates the Intergenerational Poverty Plan Implementation Pilot Program to provide funding for counties to implement local solutions to address intergenerational poverty. Effective January 1, 2020.

LRB101 10585 KTG 55691 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning poverty.

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 Intergenerational Poverty Mitigation Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Cycle of poverty" or "poverty cycle" means the set of
8 factors or events by which the long-term poverty of a person is
9 likely to continue and be experienced by each child of the
10 person when the child becomes an adult unless there is outside
11 intervention.

12 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

13 "Intergenerational poverty" means poverty in which 2 or
14 more successive generations of a family continue in the cycle
15 of poverty and government dependence. "Intergenerational
16 poverty" does not include situational poverty.

17 "Poverty" means the state of a person who lacks a usual or
18 socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions as
19 demonstrated by the person's income level being at or below the
20 poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal
21 Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
22 These guidelines set poverty levels by family size.

23 "Situational poverty" means temporary poverty that: (i) is

1 generally traceable to a specific incident or time period
2 within the lifetime of a person; and (ii) is not continued to
3 the next generation.

4 Section 10. Intergenerational poverty tracking system;
5 data; analysis; annual report.

6 (a) The Department shall establish and maintain a system to
7 track intergenerational poverty.

8 (b) The system shall:

9 (1) identify groups that have a high risk of
10 experiencing intergenerational poverty;

11 (2) identify incidents, patterns, and trends that
12 explain or contribute to intergenerational poverty;

13 (3) assist case workers, social scientists, and
14 government officials in the study and development of
15 effective and efficient plans and programs to help
16 individuals and families in the State to break the cycle of
17 poverty; and

18 (4) gather and track available local, State, and
19 national data on:

20 (i) official poverty rates;

21 (ii) child poverty rates;

22 (iii) years spent by individuals in childhood
23 poverty;

24 (iv) years spent by individuals in adult poverty;

25 and

1 (v) related poverty information.

2 (c) The Department shall:

3 (1) use available data in the tracking system,
4 including public assistance data, census data, and other
5 data made available to the Department;

6 (2) develop and implement methods to integrate,
7 compare, analyze, and validate the data for the purposes
8 described in subsection (b);

9 (3) protect the privacy of individuals living in
10 poverty by using and distributing data within the tracking
11 system in compliance with:

12 (i) federal requirements; and

13 (ii) the Freedom of Information Act; and

14 (4) submit an annual report, by October 1 of each year,
15 to the Governor and the General Assembly on the data,
16 findings, and potential uses of the tracking system.

17 Section 15. Creation of the Illinois Intergenerational
18 Welfare Reform Commission. There is created the Illinois
19 Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission composed of the
20 following 7 members:

21 (1) the Lieutenant Governor;

22 (2) the Director of Employment Security or his or her
23 designee;

24 (3) the Director of Healthcare and Family Services or
25 his or her designee;

1 (4) the Secretary of Human Services or his or her
2 designee;

3 (5) the State Superintendent of Education or his or her
4 designee;

5 (6) the Director of Juvenile Justice; and

6 (7) the Chair of the Intergenerational Poverty
7 Advisory Committee created in Section 30.

8 Section 20. Chair of the Commission; meetings; quorum;
9 staff support.

10 (a) The Lieutenant Governor shall serve as Chair of the
11 Commission.

12 (b) The Secretary of Human Services, or his or her
13 designee, shall serve as Vice Chair of the Commission.

14 (c) The Chair:

15 (1) is responsible for the call and conduct of
16 meetings;

17 (2) shall call and hold meetings of the Commission at
18 least quarterly;

19 (3) shall call additional meetings upon request by a
20 majority of the Commission's members; and

21 (4) may delegate duties to the Vice Chair.

22 (d) A majority of the members of the Commission constitutes
23 a quorum of the Commission at any meeting and the action of the
24 majority of members present is the action of the Commission.

25 (e) The Department of Human Services shall provide staff

1 support to the Commission.

2 Section 25. Purpose and duties of the Commission.

3 (a) The Commission's purpose is to:

4 (1) collaborate in sharing and analyzing data and
5 information regarding intergenerational poverty in the
6 State with a primary focus on data and information
7 regarding children who are at risk of continuing the cycle
8 of poverty and welfare dependency unless outside
9 intervention is made;

10 (2) examine and analyze shared data and information
11 regarding intergenerational poverty, including the data
12 provided by the intergenerational poverty report described
13 in Section 10, to identify and develop effective and
14 efficient plans, programs, and recommendations to help
15 at-risk children in the State escape the cycle of poverty
16 and welfare dependency, which may include avoiding
17 homelessness among children at risk of remaining in
18 poverty;

19 (3) implement data-driven policies and programs
20 addressing poverty, public assistance, education, and
21 other areas as needed to measurably reduce the incidence of
22 children in the State who remain in the cycle of poverty
23 and welfare dependency as they become adults;

24 (4) establish and facilitate improved cooperation
25 between State agencies down to the case worker level in

1 rescuing children from intergenerational poverty and
2 welfare dependency; and

3 (5) encourage participation and input from the
4 Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Committee established
5 in Section 30 and other community resources, including
6 academic experts, advocacy groups, nonprofit corporations,
7 local governments, and religious institutions in exploring
8 strategies and solutions to help children in the State who
9 are victims of intergenerational poverty escape the cycle
10 of poverty and welfare dependency.

11 (b) The Commission shall:

12 (1) fulfill the Commission's purposes as listed in
13 subsection (a);

14 (2) study, evaluate, and report on the status and
15 effectiveness of policies, procedures, and programs that
16 provide services to children in the State affected by
17 intergenerational poverty and welfare dependency;

18 (3) study and evaluate the policies, procedures, and
19 programs implemented by other states and nongovernmental
20 entities that address the needs of children affected by
21 intergenerational poverty and welfare dependency;

22 (4) (A) identify policies, procedures, and programs,
23 including any lack of interagency data sharing, lack of
24 policy coordination, or federal requirements, that are
25 impeding efforts to help children in the State affected by
26 intergenerational poverty escape the poverty cycle and

1 welfare dependency; and

2 (B) implement and recommend changes to those policies
3 and procedures;

4 (5) create an ongoing 5-year and 10-year plan, which is
5 updated annually, containing:

6 (A) measurable goals and benchmarks, including
7 future action needed to attain those goals and
8 benchmarks, for: (i) decreasing the incidence of
9 intergenerational poverty among the State's children,
10 including reducing the incidence of homelessness among
11 children affected by intergenerational poverty; and
12 (ii) increasing the number of the State's children who
13 escape the poverty cycle and welfare dependency;

14 (B) implement policy, procedure, and program
15 changes to address the needs of children affected by
16 intergenerational poverty and help those children
17 escape the poverty cycle and welfare dependency,
18 including, as available over time, data to track the
19 effectiveness of each change; and

20 (C) recommend policy, procedure, and program
21 changes to address the needs of children affected by
22 intergenerational poverty and to help those children
23 escape the poverty cycle and welfare dependency,
24 including the steps that will be required to make the
25 recommended changes and whether further action is
26 required by the General Assembly or the federal

1 government;

2 (6) ensure that each change and recommended change to a
3 policy, procedure, or program, which is made by the
4 Commission, is supported by verifiable data;

5 (7) protect the privacy of individuals living in
6 poverty by using and distributing the data it collects or
7 examines in compliance with: (i) federal requirements; and
8 (ii) the Freedom of Information Act; and

9 (8) provide a forum for public comment and
10 participation in efforts to help children in the State
11 escape the cycle of poverty and welfare dependency.

12 (c) To accomplish its duties, the Commission may:

13 (1) request and receive from any State or local
14 governmental agency or institution, information relating
15 to poverty in the State, including, (i) reports; (ii)
16 audits; (iii) data; (iv) projections; and (v) statistics;
17 and

18 (2) appoint special committees, in addition to the
19 Advisory Committee created in Section 30, to advise and
20 assist the Commission.

21 (d)(1) Members of a special committee described in
22 paragraph (2) of subsection (c):

23 (A) shall be appointed by the Commission;

24 (B) may be members of the Commission or individuals
25 from the private or public sector; and

26 (C) notwithstanding Section 40, may not receive

1 reimbursement or pay for work done in relation to the
2 special committee.

3 (2) A special committee described in paragraph (2) of
4 subsection (c) shall report to the Commission on the progress
5 of the special committee.

6 Section 30. Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Committee;
7 duties.

8 (a) To assist the Commission, there is created the
9 Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Committee.

10 (b) The Advisory Committee shall be composed of no more
11 than 11 members.

12 (c) Members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed by
13 the Chair of the Commission, with the approval of the
14 Commission, and shall include at least one member from each of
15 the following groups:

16 (1) advocacy groups that focus on childhood poverty
17 issues;

18 (2) advocacy groups that focus on education issues;

19 (3) academic experts in childhood poverty or education
20 issues;

21 (4) faith-based organizations that address childhood
22 poverty or education issues; and

23 (5) local government representatives that address
24 childhood poverty or education issues.

25 (d) Subject to subsection (e), each member of the Advisory

1 Committee shall be appointed for a 4-year term unless a member
2 is appointed to complete an unexpired term.

3 (e) The Chair of the Commission may adjust the length of
4 term at the time of appointment or reappointment so that
5 approximately half of the advisory committee is appointed every
6 2 years.

7 (f) The Chair of the Commission may remove an Advisory
8 Committee member:

9 (1) if the member is unable or unwilling to carry out
10 the member's assigned responsibilities; or

11 (2) for good cause.

12 (g) If a vacancy occurs in the Advisory Committee
13 membership for any reason, a replacement may be appointed for
14 the unexpired term.

15 (h) The Chair of the Commission shall select a Chair of the
16 Advisory Committee on an annual basis.

17 (i) A majority of the Advisory Committee constitutes a
18 quorum of the Advisory Committee at any meeting and the action
19 of the majority of members present are the action of the
20 Advisory Committee.

21 (j) The Advisory Committee shall:

22 (1) meet at least twice a year at the request of the
23 Chair of the Commission or the Chair of the Advisory
24 Committee;

25 (2) make recommendations to the Commission on how the
26 Commission and the State can effectively address the needs

1 of children affected by intergenerational poverty and
2 achieve the purposes and duties of the Commission as
3 described in Section 20; and

4 (3) ensure that the Advisory Committee's
5 recommendations to the Commission are supported by
6 verifiable data.

7 (k) The Department of Human Services shall provide staff
8 support to the Advisory Committee.

9 Section 35. Annual report by the Commission.

10 (a) The Commission shall provide a report to the Department
11 for inclusion in the Department's annual written report
12 described in Section 10.

13 (b) The report shall:

14 (1) include the 5-year and 10-year plans described in
15 paragraph (5) of subsection (b) of Section 25;

16 (2) describe how the Commission fulfilled its
17 statutory purposes and duties during the year;

18 (3) describe policies, procedures, and programs that
19 have been implemented or modified to help break the cycle
20 of poverty and end welfare dependency for children in the
21 State affected by intergenerational poverty; and

22 (4) contain recommendations on how the State should act
23 to address issues relating to breaking the cycle of poverty
24 and ending welfare dependency for children in the State
25 affected by intergenerational poverty.

1 Section 40. Service without compensation; reimbursement
2 for expenses. A member of the Commission or the Advisory
3 Committee may not receive compensation or benefits for the
4 member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses.

5 Section 45. Intergenerational Poverty School Readiness
6 Scholarship; eligibility.

7 (a) As used in this Section:

8 "Eligible child" means an individual who: (i) is
9 experiencing intergenerational poverty; (ii) will be 4 years of
10 age on or before September 2 of the school year in which the
11 individual intends to enroll in a school readiness program; and
12 (iii) has not enrolled in kindergarten, as reported by the
13 individual's parent or legal guardian.

14 "Intergenerational poverty scholarship" or "IGP
15 scholarship" has the same meaning as that term is defined in
16 Section 50.

17 (b) The Department of Human Services shall determine if an
18 applicant for an IGP scholarship is eligible for the
19 Intergenerational Poverty School Readiness Scholarship Program
20 created in Section 50.

21 (c) An individual may apply to the Department annually to
22 qualify for a scholarship for an eligible child to attend a
23 high-quality school readiness program.

24 (d) (1) The Department shall create an application form that

1 requires an applicant to provide the information necessary for
2 the Department to make the eligibility determination described
3 in subsection (e).

4 (2) The Department may: (i) require an applicant to submit
5 supporting documentation; and (ii) create a deadline for an
6 applicant to apply for an IGP scholarship.

7 (e) The Department shall determine if: (i) the information
8 contained in an application submitted under subsection (c) is
9 accurate and complete; and (ii) the child for whom the
10 applicant is applying for an IGP scholarship is an eligible
11 child.

12 (f) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) and subject to
13 appropriations, the Department shall:

14 (A) award an IGP scholarship for an individual who is
15 determined to be an eligible child under subsection (e);
16 and

17 (B) with input from the State Board of Education,
18 determine the value of an IGP scholarship.

19 (2) If the Department receives an appropriation for IGP
20 scholarships that is not sufficient to award a scholarship to
21 each eligible child, the Department shall prioritize awarding
22 IGP scholarships to eligible children who are at the highest
23 risk as determined by the Department.

24 (g) The Department shall coordinate with the State Board of
25 Education, as necessary, to enroll a recipient of an IGP
26 scholarship in a high-quality school readiness program of the

1 recipient's parent's choice, space permitting, as described in
2 Section 50.

3 (h) The Department shall adopt any rules necessary to
4 implement this Section.

5 Section 50. Intergenerational Poverty School Readiness
6 Scholarship Program.

7 (a) As used in this Section:

8 "High-quality school readiness program" means a school
9 readiness program that:

10 (1) is provided by an LEA, eligible private provider,
11 or eligible home-based technology provider; and

12 (2) meets the elements of a high-quality school
13 readiness program as determined by the State Board of
14 Education.

15 "Intergenerational poverty scholarship" or "IGP
16 scholarship" means a scholarship to attend a high-quality
17 school readiness program for an eligible student who is
18 experiencing intergenerational poverty.

19 "LEA" means a school district or charter school.

20 (b) There is created the Intergenerational Poverty School
21 Readiness Scholarship Program to provide an eligible student
22 experiencing intergenerational poverty access to a
23 high-quality school readiness program.

24 (c) The Department of Human Services shall, as prescribed
25 by rule:

1 (1) determine if an individual is eligible for an IGP
2 scholarship; and

3 (2) award an IGP scholarship.

4 (d) An LEA or home-based technology provider may apply to
5 the State Board of Education to receive a designation as a
6 high-quality school readiness program. The State Board of
7 Education shall determine if an LEA or home-based technology
8 provider offers a high-quality school readiness program.

9 (e) An eligible private provider may apply to the
10 Department of Human Services to receive a designation as a
11 high-quality school readiness program. The Department shall
12 determine if an eligible private provider offers a high-quality
13 school readiness program.

14 (f) The Department of Human Services and the State Board of
15 Education shall coordinate to assist a parent or legal guardian
16 of a recipient of an IGP scholarship to enroll the IGP
17 scholarship recipient in a high-quality school readiness
18 program (i) offered by an LEA, eligible private provider, or
19 eligible home-based technology provider; and (ii) of the parent
20 or legal guardian's choice.

21 (g) The Department of Human Services shall pay the
22 scholarship amount directly to a high-quality school readiness
23 program in which an IGP scholarship recipient enrolls.

24 (h) Except as provided in subsection (i), the Department of
25 Human Services may not provide an individual's IGP scholarship
26 to an LEA, eligible private provider, or eligible home-based

1 technology provider unless the LEA, eligible private provider,
2 or eligible home-based technology provider offers a
3 high-quality school readiness program, as determined by the
4 State Board of Education or the Department of Human Services
5 under subsection (e).

6 (i) An LEA, eligible private provider, or eligible
7 home-based technology provider that receives a determination
8 as a high-quality school readiness program may enroll an IGP
9 scholarship recipient.

10 Section 55. Intergenerational Poverty Plan Implementation
11 Pilot Program.

12 (a) There is created the Intergenerational Poverty Plan
13 Implementation Pilot Program to provide funding for counties to
14 implement local solutions to address intergenerational
15 poverty.

16 (b) (1) A county or a group of contiguous counties may
17 submit a proposal to the Department of Human Services to
18 participate in the program.

19 (2) A proposal described in subsection (a) shall:

20 (A) specify:

21 (i) outcomes that will address intergenerational
22 poverty that the funding would be used to achieve;

23 (ii) indicators that would be used to measure
24 progress toward the specified outcomes;

25 (iii) baseline measurements for each specified

1 outcome and indicator against which progress will be
2 measured; and

3 (iv) the total amount of money needed to achieve
4 the specified outcomes;

5 (B) align with the goals of the Commission's 5-year and
6 10-year plan described in paragraph (5) of subsection (b)
7 of Section 25; and

8 (C) include any other information requested by the
9 Department.

10 (c) The Department may:

11 (1) specify the format for a proposal;

12 (2) set a deadline for a county or group of counties to
13 submit a proposal;

14 (3) define criteria for selecting a county or group of
15 counties to participate in the program, which may include:

16 (A) a significant number of individuals within the
17 county or group of counties experiencing
18 intergenerational poverty;

19 (B) an established strategic plan to address
20 intergenerational poverty;

21 (C) evidence of strong engagement and leadership;

22 (D) partnerships with agencies overseeing:

23 (i) human services;

24 (ii) early childhood services;

25 (iii) public health;

26 (iv) public education;

- 1 (v) workforce development;
2 (vi) economic development;
3 (vii) higher education;
4 (viii) behavioral health;
5 (ix) juvenile justice; and

6 (E) partnerships with organizations representing
7 families experiencing poverty.

8 (d) During State Fiscal Year 2021, the Department shall:

9 (1) (A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), select
10 at least one county of the third class and at least one
11 county or group of counties of the first or second class to
12 receive a grant; or

13 (B) if the Department receives an appropriation for the
14 Pilot Program that is not sufficient to have a significant
15 impact on reducing intergenerational poverty in more than
16 one region, as determined by the Department, select one
17 county or group of counties to receive a grant;

18 (2) award grants under this subsection:

19 (A) on a competitive basis; and

20 (B) using criteria described in paragraph (3) of
21 subsection (c); and

22 (3) upon considering recommendations from the
23 Commission regarding grant applicants; and

24 (4) subject to appropriations, determine the value of
25 each grant awarded under this subsection.

26 (e) During State Fiscal Year 2022, if funding allows, the

1 Department may select additional counties to participate in the
2 program.

3 (f) A county or group of counties that receives a grant
4 under the Pilot Program shall:

5 (1) provide a cash or in-kind match that is equal to at
6 least 25% of the amount of the grant;

7 (2) use the funds provided by the Pilot Program and the
8 cash or in-kind match for purposes described in
9 subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subsection (b) and
10 approved by the Department; and

11 (3) report quarterly to the Department on progress
12 regarding the indicators and outcomes described in
13 subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subsection (b).

14 (g) The Department shall include, in the Department's
15 annual report described in Section 10, a description of the
16 Pilot Program, including the number and amounts of grants
17 awarded, the recipients of the grants, and an evaluation of the
18 progress grant recipients have made toward the indicators and
19 outcomes described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of
20 subsection (b).

21 (h) The Department may adopt any rules necessary to
22 implement this Section.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
24 1, 2020.