



## 94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2005 and 2006

HB1272

Introduced 2/9/2005, by Rep. Wyvetter H. Younge

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Community Self-Revitalization Act. Provides that a municipality, county, or any combination of municipalities and counties that are certified as an economically distressed community or communities by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, in order to receive the assistance as provided under this Act, may appoint a Board of Economic Advisors. Provides that the Board shall consist of 13 members of the community, appointed by the corporate authorities of the community, representing the perspective of 13 sectors vital to community redevelopment, including families, businesses, and government. Provides that the Board shall create a 3-year to 5-year revitalization plan for the community containing distinct, measurable objectives for revitalization. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity may, subject to appropriation, make grants to communities to create a Board of Economic Advisors under the Act for the operational expenses of the Board. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall advise Boards of available funding and assist Boards in securing this funding. Effective immediately.

LRB094 07647 AJ0 37820 b

1 AN ACT concerning community revitalization.

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 Community Self-Revitalization Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and purpose.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) There is a great need for economic revitalization  
9 in many communities throughout this State.

10 (2) Each community has valuable resources at its  
11 fingertips that can be tapped in the revitalization  
12 process.

13 (3) With adequate support and assistance from the State  
14 and other resources, each community can participate in and  
15 shepherd its own economic renewal.

16 (4) Successful redevelopment plans are based on policy  
17 that is responsive to the existing composition and  
18 character of the economically distressed community and  
19 that allows and compels the community to participate in the  
20 redevelopment planning process.

21 (5) A successful redevelopment initiative creates and  
22 maintains a capable and adaptable workforce, has access to  
23 capital, has a sound fiscal base, has adequate  
24 infrastructure, has well-managed natural resources, and  
25 has an attractive quality of life.

26 (b) It is the purpose of this legislation to provide a  
27 mechanism for an economically distressed community to use in  
28 its efforts to revitalize the community.

29 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Section:

30 "Community" means a municipality or a county with respect  
31 to the unincorporated areas of a county.

1 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic  
2 Opportunity.

3 "Economically distressed community" means (i) in the case  
4 of a municipality with a population of 25,000 or more, the  
5 municipality is certified by the Department as being in the  
6 highest 10% of all municipalities of 25,000 or more in the  
7 State in its average annual total unemployment rate for the  
8 last completed calendar year and its poverty rate, pursuant to  
9 the most recent U.S. census data available or (ii) in the case  
10 of a municipality with a population of less than 25,000 or an  
11 unincorporated area, a municipality or unincorporated area  
12 that is located at least partly in a county that is certified  
13 by the Department as being in the highest 10% of all counties  
14 in its average annual total unemployment rate for the last  
15 completed calendar year and its poverty rate, pursuant to the  
16 most recent U.S. census data available.

17 Section 15. Certification; Board of Economic Advisors.

18 (a) In order to receive the assistance as provided in this  
19 Act, a community shall first, by ordinance passed by its  
20 corporate authorities, request that the Department certify  
21 that it is an economically distressed community. The community  
22 must submit a certified copy of the ordinance to the  
23 Department. After review of the ordinance, if the Department  
24 determines that the community meets the requirements for  
25 certification, the Department shall certify the community as an  
26 economically distressed community.

27 (b) A community that is certified by the Department as an  
28 economically distressed community may appoint a Board of  
29 Economic Advisors to create and implement a revitalization plan  
30 for the community. The Board shall consist of 13 members of the  
31 community, appointed by the mayor or the presiding officer of  
32 the county or jointly by the presiding officers of each  
33 municipality and county that have joined to form a community  
34 for the purposes of this Act. The Board members shall be  
35 appointed from the 13 sectors vital to community redevelopment

1 as follows:

2 (1) A member representing households and families.

3 (2) A member representing religious organizations.

4 (3) A member representing educational institutions.

5 (4) A member representing daycare centers, care  
6 centers for the handicapped, and care centers for the  
7 disadvantaged.

8 (5) A member representing community based  
9 organizations such as neighborhood improvement  
10 associations.

11 (6) A member representing federal and State employment  
12 service systems, skill training centers, and placement  
13 referrals.

14 (7) A member representing Masonic organizations,  
15 fraternities, sororities, and social clubs.

16 (8) A member representing hospitals, nursing homes,  
17 senior citizens, public health agencies, and funeral  
18 homes.

19 (9) A member representing organized sports, parks,  
20 parties, and games of chance.

21 (10) A member representing political parties, clubs,  
22 and affiliations, and election related matters concerning  
23 voter education and participation.

24 (11) A member representing the cultural aspects of the  
25 community, including cultural events, lifestyles,  
26 languages, music, visual and performing arts, and  
27 literature.

28 (12) A member representing police and fire protection  
29 agencies, prisons, weapons systems, and the military  
30 industrial complex.

31 (13) A member representing local businesses.

32 The Board shall meet initially within 30 days of its  
33 appointment, shall select one member as chairperson at its  
34 initial meeting, and shall thereafter meet at the call of the  
35 chairperson. Members of the Board shall serve without  
36 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and

1 necessary expenses from funds available for that purpose.

2 (c) The Board shall create a 3-year to 5-year  
3 revitalization plan for the community. The plan shall contain  
4 distinct, measurable objectives for revitalization. The  
5 objectives shall be used to guide ongoing implementation of the  
6 plan and to measure progress during the 3-year to 5-year  
7 period. The Board shall work in a dynamic manner defining goals  
8 for the community based on the strengths and weaknesses of the  
9 individual sectors of the community as presented by each member  
10 of the Board. The Board shall meet periodically and revise the  
11 plan in light of the input from each member of the Board  
12 concerning his or her respective sector of expertise. The  
13 process shall be a community driven revitalization process,  
14 with community-specific data determining the direction and  
15 scope of the revitalization.

16 Section 20. Action by the Board.

17 (a) Organize. The Board shall first assess the needs and  
18 the resources of the community operating from the basic premise  
19 that the family unit is the primary unit of community and that  
20 the demand for goods and services from this residential sector  
21 is the main source of recovery and growth for the redevelopment  
22 of a community. The Board shall inventory community assets,  
23 including the condition of the family with respect to the role  
24 of the family as workers, consumers, and investors. The Board  
25 shall inventory the type and viability of businesses and  
26 industries currently in the community. In compiling the  
27 inventory, the Board shall rely on the input of each Board  
28 member with respect to his or her expertise in a given sector  
29 of the revitalization plan.

30 (b) Revitalize. In implementing the revitalization plan,  
31 the Board shall focus on and build from existing resources in  
32 the community, growing existing businesses rather than luring  
33 business into the community from the outside. The Board shall  
34 also focus on the residents themselves rather than jobs. The  
35 Board shall promote investment in training residents in areas

1 that will lead to employment and in turn will bring revenue  
2 into the community.

3 (c) Mobilize. The Board shall engage in the dynamic process  
4 of community self-revitalization through a continuous  
5 reassessment of the needs of the community in the  
6 revitalization process. As each goal of the 3-year to 5-year  
7 plan is achieved, the Board shall draw from the resources of  
8 its members to establish new goals and implement new strategies  
9 employing the lessons learned in the earlier stages of  
10 revitalization.

11 (d) Advise. The Board shall Act as the liaison between the  
12 community and the local, county, and State Government. The  
13 Board shall make use of the resources of these governmental  
14 entities and shall provide counsel to each of these bodies with  
15 respect to economic development.

16 The Board shall also act as a liaison between private  
17 business entities located in the community and the community  
18 itself. The Board shall offer advice and assistance to these  
19 entities when requested and provide incentives and support,  
20 both economic and otherwise, to facilitate expansion and  
21 further investment in the community by the businesses.

22 The Board shall annually submit a report to the General  
23 Assembly and the Governor summarizing the accomplishments of  
24 the community concerning revitalization and the goals of the  
25 community for future revitalization.

26 Section 25. Funding sources. Subject to appropriation, the  
27 Department may make grants to communities that are certified as  
28 economically distressed communities under this Act and that  
29 create a Board of Economic Advisors under this Act for the  
30 operational expenses of the Board. The procedures for grant  
31 application shall be established by the Department by rule.

32 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
33 becoming law.