

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 Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by changing Section 605-705 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-705) (was 20 ILCS 605/46.6a)

8 Sec. 605-705. Grants to local tourism and convention
9 bureaus.

10 (a) To establish a grant program for local tourism and
11 convention bureaus. The Department will develop and implement a
12 program for the use of funds, as authorized under this Act, by
13 local tourism and convention bureaus. For the purposes of this
14 Act, bureaus eligible to receive funds are those local tourism
15 and convention bureaus that are (i) either units of local
16 government or incorporated as not-for-profit organizations;
17 (ii) in legal existence for a minimum of 2 years before July 1,
18 2001; (iii) operating with a paid, full-time staff whose sole
19 purpose is to promote tourism in the designated service area;
20 and (iv) affiliated with one or more municipalities or counties
21 that support the bureau with local hotel-motel taxes. After
22 July 1, 2001, bureaus requesting certification in order to
23 receive funds for the first time must be local tourism and

1 convention bureaus that are (i) either units of local
2 government or incorporated as not-for-profit organizations;
3 (ii) in legal existence for a minimum of 2 years before the
4 request for certification; (iii) operating with a paid,
5 full-time staff whose sole purpose is to promote tourism in the
6 designated service area; and (iv) affiliated with multiple
7 municipalities or counties that support the bureau with local
8 hotel-motel taxes. Each bureau receiving funds under this Act
9 will be certified by the Department as the designated recipient
10 to serve an area of the State. Notwithstanding the criteria set
11 forth in this subsection (a), or any rule adopted under this
12 subsection (a), the Director of the Department may provide for
13 the award of grant funds to one or more entities if in the
14 Department's judgment that action is necessary in order to
15 prevent a loss of funding critical to promoting tourism in a
16 designated geographic area of the State.

17 (b) To distribute grants to local tourism and convention
18 bureaus from appropriations made from the Local Tourism Fund
19 for that purpose. Of the amounts appropriated annually to the
20 Department for expenditure under this Section prior to July 1,
21 2011, one-third of those monies shall be used for grants to
22 convention and tourism bureaus in cities with a population
23 greater than 500,000. The remaining two-thirds of the annual
24 appropriation prior to July 1, 2011 shall be used for grants to
25 convention and tourism bureaus in the remainder of the State,
26 in accordance with a formula based upon the population served.

1 Of the amounts appropriated annually ~~to the Department~~ for
2 expenditure under this Section beginning July 1, 2011, 18% of
3 such moneys shall be used for grants to convention and tourism
4 bureaus in cities with a population greater than 500,000. Of
5 the amounts appropriated annually to the Department for
6 expenditure under this Section beginning July 1, 2011, 82% of
7 such moneys shall be used for grants to convention bureaus in
8 the remainder of the State, in accordance with a formula based
9 upon the population served. The Department may reserve up to
10 10% of total local tourism funds available for costs of
11 administering the program to conduct audits of grants, to
12 provide incentive funds to those bureaus that will conduct
13 promotional activities designed to further the Department's
14 statewide advertising campaign, to fund special statewide
15 promotional activities, and to fund promotional activities
16 that support an increased use of the State's parks or historic
17 sites.

18 (Source: P.A. 97-617, eff. 10-26-11.)

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
20 becoming law.