

AN ACT concerning education.

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

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Lincoln Promise Zone Act.

Section 5. Definitions.

"Authority" means a Lincoln Promise Zone Authority created under this Act.

"Board" means the Board of an Authority.

"Eligible entity" means the City of Rockford, the City of Aurora, or the City of East St. Louis.

"Governing body" means the city council of the applicable eligible entity.

"Promise of financial assistance" means a commitment by an eligible entity to provide financial resources for a community college education for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years to eligible students living in a promise zone who have graduated from a public high school located within that promise zone.

"Promise zone" means an area designated as a promise zone by a governing body.

Section 10. Designation of a promise zone.

(a) If a governing body determines that it is necessary for the best interests of the public to promote access to a community college education, the governing body may, by ordinance or resolution, declare its intention to establish a promise zone.

(b) The governing body shall set a date for a public hearing on the adoption of a proposed resolution establishing the promise zone. Notice of the public hearing shall be published twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the eligible entity, not less than 20 or more than 40 days before the date of the hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be posted in at least 20 conspicuous and public places in the eligible entity not less than 20 days before the hearing. The notice shall state the date, time, and place of the hearing and shall describe the proposed promise zone, the details of the promise of financial assistance, and the criteria for eligibility to receive that financial assistance.

(c) If the governing body of the eligible entity intends to proceed with the establishment of the promise zone, the governing body shall, by ordinance or resolution, establish a promise zone.

Section 15. Promise Zone Authority; creation.

(a) If the governing body, by ordinance or resolution, establishes the promise zone, the governing body shall, by ordinance or resolution, create a Lincoln Promise Zone

Authority.

(b) For the City of Rockford and the City of Aurora, an Authority shall be under the supervision and control of a Board consisting of the mayor and 6 members appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the governing body, with 2 of the 6 members being educators and 2 of the 6 members being community business leaders. With respect to the City of East St. Louis, an Authority shall be under the supervision and control of a Board consisting of the mayor and (i) 2 members who are educators appointed by the State Senator from the 57th Legislative District, with the advice and consent of the governing body; (ii) 2 members who are community business leaders appointed by the State Senator from the 57th Legislative District, with the advice and consent of the governing body; and (iii) 2 members appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the governing body. Each member of an Authority shall serve until the Authority is abolished under Section 90 of this Act. An appointment to fill a vacancy shall be made by the person who made the original appointment, with the advice and consent of the governing body. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses from funds the Authority receives. The Chairperson of the Board shall be elected by the Board.

Section 20. Powers of the Authority.

(a) An Authority is a public body corporate that may sue and be sued in any court of this State. An Authority possesses all of the powers necessary to carry out its purpose. The enumeration of a power in this Act shall not be construed as a limitation upon the general powers of the Authority.

(b) The Board may employ and fix the compensation of a Director. The Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. A member of the Board is not eligible to hold the position of Director. Before beginning his or her duties, the Director shall furnish bond by posting a bond in the sum determined in the ordinance or resolution establishing the Authority payable to the Authority for use and benefit of the Authority, approved by the Board, and filed with the clerk of the eligible entity. The premium on the bond shall be considered an operating expense of the Authority, payable from funds available to the Authority for expenses of operation. The Director shall be the chief executive officer of the Authority.

(c) Subject to the approval of the Board, the Director shall supervise and be responsible for implementing the promise zone development plan established under Section 25 of this Act and the performance of the functions of the Authority in the manner authorized by this Act. The Director shall attend the meetings of the Board and shall provide to the Board, the governing body, and the chief executive officer of the eligible entity a regular report covering the activities and financial condition of the Authority. If the Director is absent or

disabled, the Board may designate a qualified person as Acting Director to perform the duties of the office.

(d) The Board may employ and fix the compensation of a Treasurer, who shall keep the financial records of the Authority and who, together with the Director, shall approve all vouchers for the expenditure of funds of the Authority. The Treasurer shall perform all duties delegated to him or her by the Board and shall furnish a bond in an amount prescribed by the Board.

(e) The Board may employ and fix the compensation of a Secretary, who shall maintain custody of the official seal and of records, books, documents, or other papers not required to be maintained by the Treasurer. The Secretary shall attend meetings of the Board and keep a record of its proceedings and shall perform other duties delegated by the Board.

(f) The Board may retain legal counsel to advise the Board in the proper performance of its duties.

(g) The Board may employ other personnel considered necessary by the Board.

(h) The Board may do any of the following:

(1) prepare an analysis of the community college educational opportunities for the residents of the promise zone;

(2) study and analyze the need for financial resources to provide community college educational opportunities for residents of the promise zone;

(3) acquire, by purchase or otherwise, on terms and conditions and in a manner the Authority considers proper, own, convey, or otherwise dispose of, or lease as lessor or lessee land and other property, real or personal, or rights or interests in the property that the Authority determines is reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act and grant or acquire licenses, easements, and options;

(4) fix, charge, and collect fees, rents, and charges for the use of any facility, building, or property under its control or any part of the facility, building, or property;

(5) lease, in whole or in part, any facility, building, or property under its control; or

(6) solicit and accept grants and donations of money, property, labor, or other things of value from a private source, except as otherwise prohibited by law.

Section 25. Promise zone development plan. A Lincoln Promise Zone Authority created under Section 15 of this Act shall prepare and adopt a promise zone development plan, which shall include all of the following:

(1) A complete description of the proposed promise of financial assistance. The proposed promise of financial assistance shall include, without limitation, a promise of financial assistance for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years to all students residing within the promise

zone who graduate from a public high school located within that promise zone to attend community college in the public community college district where the eligible entity is located. The proposed promise of financial assistance shall, at a minimum, provide funding sufficient to provide an eligible student the tuition necessary to obtain an associate degree or its equivalent at the local community college during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years, subject to any limitations authorized under this Section. The proposed promise of financial assistance may also authorize the expenditure of funds for educational improvement activities designed to increase readiness for postsecondary education at public schools located in the promise zone.

(2) A complete description of any limitation on the promise of financial assistance, including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) whether the promise of financial assistance will be prorated based on the number of years the student has resided within the promise zone;

(B) whether the promise of financial assistance will be restricted to students who have resided within or attended a public high school within the promise zone for a minimum number of years;

(C) whether the promise of financial assistance is predicated on the student maintaining a minimum

college grade point average and carrying a minimum college credit hour classload.

(3) A requirement that graduates of a public high school exhaust all other known and available grants for tuition and fees for postsecondary education provided by a federal, State, or local governmental entity, as determined by the Board.

(4) A description of how the funds necessary to accomplish the promise of financial assistance will be raised. The promise zone development plan shall be financed from one or more of the following sources:

(A) private donations;

(B) money obtained from other private sources approved by the governing body or otherwise authorized by law; or

(C) interest or other investment income, earnings, or proceeds from item (A) or (B) of this subdivision (4).

(5) An actuarial model of how much the proposed plan is estimated to cost.

The Board shall submit the promise zone development plan to the review committee established under Section 35 of this Act promptly after the plan's adoption. The promise zone development plan shall be published on the Internet website of the eligible entity that established the promise zone.

Section 30. Deposit and expenditure of moneys received by the Authority. Moneys received by the Authority shall immediately be deposited to the credit of the Authority, subject to disbursement under this Act. The Authority shall not expend more than 15% of its proposed annual budget for administrative costs.

Section 35. Review committee.

(a) There is created a review committee consisting of the following members:

(1) The Chairperson of the Senate's Higher Education Committee.

(2) The Minority Spokesperson of the Senate's Higher Education Committee.

(3) The Chairperson of the Senate's Education Committee.

(4) The Chairperson of the House of Representative's Higher Education Committee.

(5) The Minority Spokesperson of the House of Representative's Higher Education Committee.

(6) The Chairperson of the House of Representative's Elementary & Secondary Education Committee.

(7) One representative of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, appointed by the Chairman of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

(8) One representative of the Board of Higher

Education, appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Higher Education.

(9) One representative of the Illinois Community College Board, appointed by the Chairman of the Illinois Community College Board.

(b) The review committee shall review each promise zone development plan submitted under Section 25 of this Act, as well as the plan's implementation. An Authority must submit such information as the review committee may request from time to time.

(c) The review committee shall report to the General Assembly on all aspects of this Act's implementation on or before December 31, 2017.

Section 90. Abolishment of Authority; expiration of Act.

(a) An Authority created under this Act is abolished on January 31, 2018.

(b) This Act is repealed on January 31, 2018.

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