



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB1607

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Rep. Sonya M. Harper

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Commission on Eliminating Food Deserts Act. Establishes the Commission on Eliminating Food Deserts in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for the purpose of reviewing the effectiveness of current State-led efforts to eliminate food deserts in Illinois and advising the General Assembly on policy, funding, initiatives, and best practices for the elimination of food deserts in Illinois. Describes the membership of the Commission. Provides that the Commission shall convene at the call of the chairperson and meet as frequently as necessary to carry out its duties. Provides that the Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall provide administrative and other support to the Commission. Provides that commissioners shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses from funds appropriated for that purpose. Provides that the Commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2027, with annual addenda thereafter. Provides that the Act is repealed and the Commission is dissolved if 90% of food deserts in this State have been eliminated, with certain requirements. Defines terms.

LRB104 07687 BDA 17731 b

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Commission on Eliminating Food Deserts Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Commission" means the Commission on Eliminating Food
8 Deserts established under this Act.

9 "Commissioner" means a commissioner on the Commission, as
10 listed in subsection (b) of Section 10 of this Act.

11 "Food desert" means a geographic area where people have
12 limited access to affordable, healthy, and nutritious food.
13 "Food desert" includes a food desert as defined by Economic
14 Research Report Number 140 of the Economic Research Service of
15 the U.S. Department of Agriculture, August 2012.

16 Section 10. Commission on Eliminating Food Deserts.

17 (a) The Commission on Eliminating Food Deserts is
18 established in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for the
19 following purposes:

20 (1) to review the effectiveness of current State-led
21 efforts to eliminate food deserts in Illinois; and

22 (2) to advise the General Assembly on policy, funding,

1 initiatives, and best practices for the elimination of
2 food deserts in Illinois.

3 (b) The Commission shall consist of the following
4 commissioners:

5 (1) the Lieutenant Governor or the Lieutenant
6 Governor's designee, who shall serve as chairperson;

7 (2) the Secretary of Human Services or the Secretary's
8 designee;

9 (3) the Director of Public Health or the Director's
10 designee;

11 (4) the Director of Agriculture or the Director's
12 designee;

13 (5) the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
14 or the Director's designee;

15 (6) one commissioner who is a representative of the
16 University of Illinois Extension, appointed by the
17 Director of Extension and Outreach in the College of
18 Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences at the
19 University of Illinois;

20 (7) one member of the Senate, appointed by the
21 President of the Senate;

22 (8) one member of the House of Representatives,
23 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

24 (9) one member of the Senate, appointed by the Senate
25 Minority Leader;

26 (10) one member of the House of Representatives,

1 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
2 Representatives;

3 (11) one commissioner who is a representative of a
4 county government of a county in Illinois with a
5 population greater than 1,000,000 people, appointed by the
6 Governor;

7 (12) one commissioner who is a representative of a
8 county government of a county in Illinois with a
9 population fewer than 1,000,000 people but greater than
10 500,000 people, appointed by the Governor;

11 (13) one commissioner who is a representative of a
12 county government of a county in Illinois with a
13 population fewer than 500,000 people, appointed by the
14 Governor;

15 (14) one commissioner who is involved in agriculture
16 in Illinois, appointed by the Governor;

17 (15) one commissioner who is a representative of a
18 food retailer in Illinois, appointed by the Governor;

19 (16) one commissioner who is a representative of
20 retailers in Illinois, appointed by the Governor;

21 (17) eight commissioners who reside in food deserts in
22 Illinois, appointed by the Governor; and

23 (18) four commissioners who are representatives of
24 non-profit organizations in food deserts in Illinois,
25 appointed by the Governor.

26 (c) The Commission shall convene and meet at the call of

1 the chairperson and shall meet as frequently as necessary to
2 carry out its duties as required by this Act.

3 (d) The Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall provide
4 administrative and other support to the Commission.

5 (e) Commissioners shall serve without compensation but
6 shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary
7 expenses from funds appropriated for that purpose.

8 (f) The Commission shall submit a report to the Governor
9 and the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2027. The
10 substance of the report shall include the number or amount of
11 food deserts in this State, shall address the purposes of the
12 Commission in subsection (a) of this Section, and shall
13 provide any other advice or recommendations of the Commission.

14 (g) After the submission of the report under subsection
15 (f), the Commission shall submit an annual addendum to the
16 Governor and the General Assembly with any updates to the
17 substance of the report and noting the percentage of food
18 deserts in this State that have been eliminated since the
19 submission of the report.

20 (h) If the Commission submits an annual addendum under
21 subsection (g) to the report under subsection (f) which notes
22 that 90% of food deserts in this State have been eliminated,
23 then the chairperson of the Commission shall:

24 (1) file with the Index Department of the Office of
25 the Secretary of State a declaration that 90% of food
26 deserts in this State have been eliminated and that the

1 Commission shall be dissolved;

2 (2) notify the Clerk of the House of Representatives
3 of the filing described in paragraph (1) on the day that it
4 occurs;

5 (3) notify the Secretary of the Senate of the filing
6 described in paragraph (1) on the day that it occurs; and

7 (4) notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
8 Reference Bureau of the filing described in paragraph (1)
9 on the day that it occurs.

10 Upon such filing and notification, this Act is repealed
11 and the Commission is dissolved as provided in Section 15 of
12 this Act.

13 Section 15. Repeal. This Act is repealed and the
14 Commission on Eliminating Food Deserts is dissolved upon the
15 occurrence of the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of
16 Section 10 of this Act.