



Rep. Carol Ammons

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10400HB5486ham001

LRB104 17770 TRT 36095 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5486

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 5486 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Office of Genealogical Affairs Study Commission Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings and purpose.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) Illinois has a documented history of slavery,  
9 coerced labor, family separation, racial violence, and  
10 State-sanctioned discrimination, including, but not  
11 limited to, the enslavement of African Americans at  
12 State-operated salt mines, the enforcement of Black Codes,  
13 and the long-term exclusion of African American families  
14 from full civic participation.

15 (2) These historical practices resulted in the  
16 systematic destruction, fragmentation, or non-creation of

1 genealogical records for African American families and  
2 other historically displaced populations, impairing their  
3 ability to document family identity, lineage, and  
4 inheritance.

5 (3) Illinois recognizes genealogical access as a  
6 public service and democratic good through its archival,  
7 records preservation, and genealogical programs, and it  
8 recognizes family identity as a legally protected interest  
9 for the purposes of adoption, parentage, and child welfare  
10 law.

11 (4) Genealogical knowledge serves not only  
12 administrative purposes but also reparative, forensic,  
13 public health, and psychosocial functions, including  
14 identity formation, family reunification, historical  
15 accountability, and access to health-related genetic  
16 information.

17 (5) The State lacks an integrated framework for  
18 delivering genealogical services across restorative,  
19 forensic, and administrative domains, particularly where  
20 traditional documentation is absent.

21 (b) Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to commission a  
22 comprehensive study on the establishment of an Office of  
23 Genealogical Affairs, grounded in Illinois law and public  
24 service traditions, to determine how the State may equitably  
25 provide genealogical services that support identity repair,  
26 historical accountability, and, where applicable,

1 administrative determinations.

2 Section 10. Office of Genealogical Affairs Study  
3 Commission.

4 (a) The Office of Genealogical Affairs Study Commission is  
5 created. The members of the Commission shall be as follows:

6 (1) 10 public members appointed by the Governor with  
7 specialties in the following areas or with the following  
8 expertise:

9 (A) expertise in anthropology and population  
10 genetics genealogy;

11 (B) expertise in biological anthropology;

12 (C) expertise in cultural anthropology;

13 (D) specialty in archival studies;

14 (E) specialty in historical studies;

15 (F) specialty in genealogy;

16 (G) specialty in psycho-social or psycho-mental  
17 health; and

18 (H) specialty in data governance, privacy, and  
19 security;

20 (2) 2 members that are descendant community leadership  
21 representatives appointed by the Governor;

22 (3) one public health professional from a  
23 nongovernmental organization or academic institution  
24 appointed by the Governor;

25 (4) one member appointed by the President of the

1 Senate;

2 (5) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
3 Senate;

4 (6) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House  
5 of Representatives;

6 (7) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
7 House of Representatives; and

8 (8) 3 ex officio members:

9 (A) the Secretary of State, as the State  
10 Archivist, or the Secretary's designee; and

11 (B) the Director of the Illinois State Archives,  
12 or the Director's designee.

13 (C) a Director of the Illinois State Genealogical  
14 Society or a Director's designee.

15 (b) Commission members appointed under paragraphs (3)  
16 through (6) of subsection (a) shall co-chair the Commission.

17 (c) Each Commission member shall serve for a term of 2  
18 years or until his or successor is appointed and qualified,  
19 except in the case of initial appointees who shall serve for a  
20 period of 2 years after the effective date of this Act.

21 (d) Beginning August 2026, the Commission shall meet  
22 monthly, whether in-person or virtually, or as called by the  
23 co-chairs of the Commission.

24 Section 15. Duties of the Commission.

25 (a) The Commission shall have the following duties:

1           (1) to examine the feasibility, scope, and structure  
2 of a permanent Office of Genealogical Affairs within State  
3 government;

4           (2) to examine how an Office of Genealogical Affairs  
5 could operationalize reparative genealogical services;

6           (3) to examine how an Office of Genealogical Affairs  
7 could support forensic and historical accountability  
8 efforts; and

9           (4) to examine how an Office of Genealogical Affairs  
10 could support administrative genealogical determinations.

11           (b) The Commission may engage with experts with the  
12 approval of the chairperson or co-chairs and shall receive the  
13 cooperation of those State agencies it deems appropriate to  
14 assist the Commission in carrying out its duties.

15           (c) The Commission may consult with the Department of  
16 Human Services, the Department of Public Health, the Illinois  
17 State Archives, and the African Descent-Citizens Reparations  
18 Commission to provide information or related data to support  
19 the Commission's work.

20           Section 20. Report to the Governor and General Assembly.  
21 No later than 20 months after the effective date of this Act,  
22 the Commission shall prepare a report to the Governor and the  
23 General Assembly, which shall include, but shall not be  
24 limited to:

25           (1) a recommended statutory placement, governance

1 structure, and staffing model for an Office of  
2 Genealogical Affairs;

3 (2) a phased implementation plan prioritizing  
4 reparative forensic services;

5 (3) an ethical, legal, and data-governance framework  
6 for genealogical and genetic genealogy services;

7 (4) a description of the estimated costs, funding  
8 mechanisms, and interagency coordination needs; and

9 (5) a description of the options for pilot programs  
10 and statewide scaling.

11 Section 25. Construction. Nothing in this Act shall be  
12 construed to mandate genetic testing, limit access to existing  
13 genealogical services, or authorize the use of genealogical  
14 data for surveillance or for law enforcement purposes.

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