



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB1845

Introduced 2/17/2021, by Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Commission on Fair Practices in Procurement and Contracting Act. Establishes the Commission on Fair Practices in Procurement and Contracting. Provides for the purpose and functions of the Commission. Provides for the membership of the Commission and related requirements. Provides that the Department of Central Management Services shall assist the Commission and provide administrative support to the Commission. Provides meeting requirements for the Commission. Provides for the adoption of rules. Defines terms. Provides legislative findings. Effective immediately.

LRB102 11404 RJF 16737 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 Fair Practices in Procurement and Contracting
6 Act.

7 Section 5. Legislative findings.

8 (1) It is the public policy of the State of Illinois
9 that businesses owned by minorities, women, and persons
10 with disabilities should participate equitably and
11 contract with the State through its procurement processes.

12 (2) The Business Enterprise Program, which exists to
13 foster an inclusive and competitive business environment,
14 commissioned a Disparity and Availability Study in 2015
15 which found that disparities still significantly exist
16 between the availability and utilization of Business
17 Enterprise Program certified businesses compared to
18 non-Business Enterprise Program certified owned
19 businesses.

20 (3) The 2015 Disparity and Availability Study and
21 Business Enterprise Program's most recent annual reports
22 still identify significant ongoing disparities between the
23 4 participating classes of Business Enterprise Program

1 business owners as well as between all Business Enterprise
2 Program certified companies in comparison to white male
3 majority owned businesses awarded State contracts.

4 (4) Recent research and policy recommendations from
5 State task forces and other studies reveal there is more
6 work that must be done to increase access and equity in
7 State procurement and contracting in Illinois.

8 (5) Ongoing commitment to reviewing and correcting of
9 exclusive contracting patterns is necessary to not only
10 encourage but also facilitate full participation by
11 business owners of diverse backgrounds that have
12 historically faced unique barriers to entry and corporate
13 growth in our economy.

14 (6) Therefore, there exists an urgent and substantial
15 need for the establishment of a legislatively authorized
16 body to monitor, analyze, formulate policy
17 recommendations, and produce reports on the State of
18 Illinois' progress in the implementation of fair practices
19 in procurement and contracting statewide.

20 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

21 "Commission" means the Commission on Fair Practices in
22 Procurement and Contracting created under this Act.

23 "Department" means the Department of Central Management
24 Services.

25 "Disparity Study" means the State of Illinois 2015

1 Disparity and Availability Study.

2 "Program" means the Business Enterprise Program for
3 Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities created under
4 the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons
5 with Disabilities Act.

6 "State agency" means any agency under the jurisdiction of
7 the Governor whose procurement contracting is regulated by the
8 Chief Procurement Officer for General Services.

9 "State contract" or "State contracts" has the same meaning
10 provided under Section 2 of the Business Enterprise for
11 Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act.

12 Section 15. Commission on Fair Practices in Procurement
13 and Contracting.

14 (a) Pursuant to the promotion of economic equity through
15 increased access and participation in the State of Illinois
16 procurement and contracting processes, there is hereby created
17 a permanent Commission on Fair Practices in Procurement and
18 Contracting.

19 (b) The purpose of the Commission is the ongoing study of
20 Program certified businesses and their participation in State
21 procurement, contracting, and as awardees. The Commission
22 shall be an advisory body that will not make binding
23 recommendations or determinations.

24 (c) The Commission shall perform the following functions:

25 (1) issue regularly proposed solutions to systemic

1 causes limiting Program certified business participation
2 in State procurements;

3 (2) review on a quarterly basis State agency
4 performance as it relates to Program certified businesses
5 to increase transparency surrounding State agency
6 compliance. Report results are to be made available to
7 Program certified businesses and the public at-large;

8 (3) review State agency performance and issue
9 recommendations as warranted on the eradication of
10 historic disparities and barriers to State procurement,
11 awarding of State contracts, and receipt of State funds by
12 Program certified businesses;

13 (4) receive from each State agency a plan, including
14 goals on how to eradicate historic disparities and
15 barriers that prevent fairness, access, equality, and
16 parity for Program certified businesses, and review and
17 provide recommendations to State agencies on such plans;

18 (5) recommend performance incentives for State
19 agencies that meet or exceed their planned goals and
20 publish, at least annually, a list of those State agencies
21 that fail to meet their planned goals;

22 (6) conduct meetings and accept public comment from
23 representatives of Program certified businesses on their
24 interaction with State agencies and experiences in seeking
25 to overcome historic barriers to participation in State
26 procurement and contracting, and issue recommendations to

1 State agencies based on such comments and other
2 information;

3 (7) conduct inquiries of State agencies to identify and
4 evaluate existing administrative, operational, and
5 personnel policies and procedures as they relate to
6 Program certified and non-Program certified owned business
7 participation in State procurements; and

8 (8) issue annually 3 separate reports (one each for
9 minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, and
10 businesses owned by persons with a disability) to the
11 Governor and the General Assembly, which shall include
12 data and recommendations on disparities between
13 utilization ratios within Program certified owned business
14 groups, as well as in comparison to non-certified Program
15 companies awarded State contracts in Illinois.

16 Section 20. Commission membership.

17 (a) The Commission shall consist of the following members:

18 (1) four members appointed by the Governor,
19 representing the Capital Development Board, the Department
20 of Transportation, the Department of Health and Family
21 Services, and the Department of Human Services;

22 (2) one member from the Department of Central
23 Management Services as a representative of the Department
24 and the Program;

25 (3) four members of the public, representing Program

1 certified businesses, appointed by the Governor, of which
2 one is a member of the Business Enterprise Council for
3 Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities;

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

6 (5) one member of the House of Representatives,
7 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
8 Representatives;

9 (6) one member of the Senate appointed by the
10 President of the Senate; and

11 (7) one member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
12 Leader of the Senate.

13 (b) The chairperson or co-chairpersons of the Commission
14 shall be designated by the Governor.

15 (c) Members of the Commission shall serve without
16 compensation.

17 (d) The Department shall assist the Commission and provide
18 administrative support to the Commission, including, but not
19 limited to: (i) providing an Ethics Officer to the Commission;
20 (ii) responding to Freedom of Information Act requests on
21 behalf of the Commission; and (iii) assisting the Commission
22 in complying with State ethics laws.

23 Section 25. Meetings. The Commission shall hold its first
24 meeting in January 2022, and meet at least quarterly
25 thereafter, and annually publish a report of its findings to

1 be issued to the Governor, the General Assembly, appropriate
2 committees, certified Program organizations, and the public
3 through the support of the Department. The Commission and its
4 meetings are subject to the requirements of the Open Meetings
5 Act.

6 Section 30. Rules. The Commission may adopt all rules,
7 policies, and procedures necessary to carry out its duties and
8 functions under this Act.

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