

1 AN ACT concerning government.

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

4 Section 1. Findings. The General Assembly finds and  
5 declares the following:

6 (1) Irish individuals first came to Illinois in the  
7 late 18th Century in search of liberty and new  
8 opportunities.

9 (2) From farming to industrial work in cities, the  
10 contributions of Irish in Illinois have been enormous.

11 (3) Cook County is the largest Irish county in the  
12 United States and the State of Illinois is home to over  
13 1,000,000 individuals with Irish ancestry.

14 (4) Due to the large number of Irish-Americans in  
15 Illinois, Chicago is home to one of the largest St.  
16 Patrick's Day celebrations and celebrations of Irish  
17 heritage in the United States.

18 (5) Therefore, given the contributions of  
19 Irish-Americans to both the United States and the State of  
20 Illinois, the General Assembly declares that April 18 of  
21 each year shall be known as Republic of Ireland Day.

22 Section 5. The State Commemorative Dates Act is amended by  
23 adding Section 9 as follows:

1 (5 ILCS 490/9 new)

2 Sec. 9. Republic of Ireland Day. April 18 of each year is  
3 designated as Republic of Ireland Day to be observed  
4 throughout the State as a day in recognition of the  
5 anniversary of April 18, 1949, the day in which the Republic of  
6 Ireland officially declared itself independent from Great  
7 Britain, in recognition of the Republic of Ireland and its  
8 people, and in recognition of the many Illinoisans of Irish  
9 descent who have made a lasting impact upon our State. Each  
10 year, within 10 days before Republic of Ireland Day, the  
11 Governor shall issue a proclamation announcing the recognition  
12 of Republic of Ireland Day, and designate the official events  
13 that shall be held in honor of Republic of Ireland Day and the  
14 contributions of Illinoisans of Irish descent.

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