

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 5. The Illinois Housing Development Act is amended
5 by adding Section 7.33 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 3805/7.33 new)

7 Sec. 7.33. Urban and suburban gardening at affordable
8 housing projects.

9 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that the
10 long-term sustainability of the Illinois communities depends
11 upon improved uses of land that has already been developed.
12 The General Assembly also finds that agricultural growth in
13 urban and suburban areas contributes significantly to
14 environmental and economic sustainability by providing
15 locally-produced agricultural goods, as well as improving the
16 landscape of these areas.

17 The purpose of this Section is to authorize the Authority
18 to develop a program that provides incentives for the
19 development of housing projects that incorporate urban and
20 suburban gardening programs.

21 (b) Definitions. As used in this Section, "gardening"
22 means the production of consumable produce to be kept or sold
23 and includes the farming of chicken, ducks, and small farm

1 animals for milk production.

2 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
3 Authority may develop a program that provides incentives for
4 the development of affordable housing projects that
5 incorporate urban and suburban gardening programs. Under the
6 program, the University of Illinois shall be consulted
7 regarding best practices in urban gardening and farming,
8 including vertical gardening, aquaponics, and community
9 gardening. An affordable housing project that incorporates an
10 urban or suburban gardening program must provide any land,
11 buildings, or tools necessary to develop and maintain the
12 garden or farm. Under the program, the Authority shall also
13 coordinate and collaborate with the Department of Commerce and
14 Economic Opportunity to create distribution networks that link
15 urban and suburban gardens with local businesses in order to
16 facilitate the sale and distribution of locally-grown
17 agricultural products and food stuffs to consumers residing
18 within the local community.

19 (d) The Authority and the Department of Commerce and
20 Economic Opportunity may adopt any rules necessary to
21 implement the program.

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