



Rep. Kelly M. Cassidy

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10300HB4959ham001

LRB103 36303 SPS 71272 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 4959

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 4959 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois
6 is amended by adding Section 605-1115 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-1115 new)

8 Sec. 605-1115. Creative Economy Task Force.

9 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Creative Economy Task
10 Force is created within the Department of Commerce and
11 Economic Opportunity to create a strategic plan to develop the
12 creative economy in this State.

13 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

14 (1) the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
15 or the Director's designee, who shall serve as chair of
16 the task force;

1 (2) the Executive Director of the Illinois Arts
2 Council or the Executive Director's designee, who shall
3 serve as the vice-chair of the task force;

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

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

8 (5) one member appointed by the President of the
9 Senate;

10 (6) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
11 Senate;

12 (7) one member from the banking industry with
13 experience in matters involving the federal small business
14 administration, appointed by the Governor;

15 (8) one member from a certified public accounting firm
16 or other company with experience in financial modeling and
17 in the creative arts, appointed by the Governor;

18 (9) one member recommended by the Illinois State
19 Association of Counties, appointed by the Governor;

20 (10) one member from an Illinois public institution of
21 higher education or nonprofit research institution with
22 experience in matters involving cultural arts, appointed
23 by the Governor;

24 (11) the Director of Labor or the Director's designee;
25 and

26 (12) five members from this State's arts community,

1 appointed by the Governor, including, but not limited to,
2 the following sectors:

3 (A) film, television, and video production;

4 (B) recorded audio and music production;

5 (C) animation production;

6 (D) video game development;

7 (E) live theater, orchestra, ballet, and opera;

8 (F) live music performance;

9 (G) visual arts, including sculpture, painting,
10 graphic design, and photography;

11 (H) production facilities, such as film and
12 television studios;

13 (I) live music or performing arts venues; and

14 (J) arts service organizations.

15 (c) No later than July 1, 2026, the task force shall
16 collect and analyze data on the current state of the creative
17 economy in this State and develop a strategic plan to improve
18 this State's creative economy that can be rolled out in
19 incremental phases to reach identified economic, social
20 justice, and business development goals. The goal of the
21 strategic plan shall be to ensure that this State is
22 competitive with respect to attracting creative economy
23 business, retaining talent within this State, and developing
24 marketable content that can be exported for national and
25 international consumption and monetization. The strategic plan
26 shall address support for the creative community within

1 historically marginalized communities, as well as the creative
2 economy at large, and take into account the diverse interests,
3 strengths, and needs of the people of this State. In
4 developing the strategic plan for the creative economy in this
5 State, the task force shall:

6 (1) identify existing studies of aspects affecting the
7 creative economy, including studies relating to tax
8 issues, legislation, finance, population and demographics,
9 and employment;

10 (2) conduct a comparative analysis with other
11 jurisdictions that have successfully developed creative
12 economy plans and programs;

13 (3) conduct in-depth interviews to identify best
14 practices for structuring a strategic plan for this State;

15 (4) evaluate existing banking models for financing
16 creative economy projects in the private sector and
17 develop a financial model to promote investment in this
18 State's creative economy;

19 (5) evaluate existing federal, State, and local tax
20 incentives and make recommendations for improvements to
21 support the creative economy;

22 (6) identify the role that counties and cities play
23 with respect to the strategic plan, and identify specific
24 counties and cities that may need or want a stronger
25 creative economy;

26 (7) identify opportunities for aligning with new

1 business models and the integration of new technologies;

2 (8) identify the role that State education programs in
3 the creative arts play in the creative economy and with
4 respect to advancing the strategic plan;

5 (9) identify geographic areas with the least amount of
6 access or opportunity for a creative economy;

7 (10) identify opportunities for earn and learn job
8 training employment for students who have enrolled or
9 completed a program in the arts, low-income or unemployed
10 creative workers, and others with demonstrated interest in
11 creative work in their communities; and

12 (11) identify existing initiatives and projects that
13 can be used as models for earn and learn opportunities or
14 as examples of best practices for earn and learn
15 opportunities that can be replicated Statewide or in
16 different regions.

17 (d) The task force shall submit its findings and
18 recommendations to the General Assembly no later than July 1,
19 2026.

20 (e) Members of the task force shall serve without
21 compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
22 incurred in the performance of their duties. The Department of
23 Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall provide administrative
24 support to the task force.

25 (f) Appropriations for the task force may be used to
26 support operational expenses of the Department, including

1 entering into a contract with a third-party provider for
2 administrative support.

3 (g) The Director or the Director's designee may, after
4 issuing a request for proposals, designate a third-party
5 provider to help facilitate task force meetings, compile
6 information, and prepare the strategic plan described in
7 subsection (c). A third-party provider contracted by the
8 Director shall have experience conducting business in
9 professional arts or experience in business development and
10 drafting business plans and multidisciplinary planning
11 documents.

12 (h) This Section is repealed January 1, 2027."