



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB1623

Introduced 2/8/2023, by Sen. David Koehler

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force Act. Creates the Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force. Provides that the Task Force shall develop a statewide plan to connect existing local projects and new projects to create a cohesive statewide history of the Underground Railroad in Illinois while creating new educational and tourism opportunities for the State. Establishes the membership of the Task Force. Provides that the members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation. Provides that the Department of Natural Resources shall provide administrative and technical support to the Task Force. Provides that all members of the Task Force shall be appointed within 30 days after the effective date of the Act. Provides that the Task Force shall review available research, existing infrastructure and projects, best practices, and effective interventions to formulate recommendations. Provides that the Task Force shall prepare a report detailing the Task Force's findings and recommendations and needed resources. Provides that the Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor on or before July 1, 2024. Provides that the Task Force is dissolved, and the Act is repealed, on January 1, 2025.

LRB103 27591 DTM 53967 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 Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force. The  
7 Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force is created. The  
8 Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force shall develop a  
9 statewide plan to connect existing local projects and new  
10 projects to create a cohesive statewide history of the  
11 Underground Railroad in Illinois, while developing new  
12 educational and tourism opportunities for this State.

13 Section 10. Task Force members.

14 (a) The Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force shall be  
15 composed of the following members:

16 (1) one member appointed by the President of the  
17 Senate;

18 (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
19 Senate;

20 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House  
21 of Representatives;

22 (4) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the

1 House of Representatives;

2 (5) one member appointed by the Governor;

3 (6) the Director of Natural Resources or the  
4 Director's designee;

5 (7) the Director of the Illinois State Archives or the  
6 Director's designee;

7 (8) the President of the Illinois State Historical  
8 Society or the President's designee;

9 (9) the President of the NAACP Illinois State  
10 Conference or the President's designee; and

11 (10) the Clerk of Tazewell County.

12 (b) The members of the Task Force shall serve without  
13 compensation.

14 (c) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide  
15 administrative and technical support to the Task Force. All  
16 members of the Task Force shall be appointed within 30 days  
17 after the effective date of this Act.

18 Section 15. Meetings, report.

19 (a) The Task Force shall meet at least 3 times with the  
20 first meeting occurring within 60 days after the effective  
21 date of this Act.

22 (b) The Task Force shall review available research,  
23 existing infrastructure and projects, best practices, and  
24 effective interventions to formulate recommendations.

25 (c) The Task Force shall prepare a report detailing the

1 Task Force's findings and recommendations and needed  
2 resources. The Task Force shall submit a report of its  
3 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the  
4 Governor on or before July 1, 2024.

5 Section 20. Repeal and dissolution of Task Force. The Task  
6 Force is dissolved, and this Act is repealed, on January 1,  
7 2025.