

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

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 Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transportation Act.

6 Section 5. Findings; purpose. The General Assembly
7 finds that safe, reliable, and convenient transportation to
8 and from (i) work and related destinations such as child care
9 and education, (ii) medical appointments and related
10 destinations such as a pharmacy, and (iii) ancillary services
11 necessary to the health, well-being, and independence of the
12 family such as grocery shopping, adult day services, and
13 pharmacy related services are extremely important in the
14 ability to find and retain employment and insure the
15 continued independence and well-being of all citizens of
16 Illinois, particularly in the lower income sectors of the
17 economy. For many people, these transportation needs are not
18 met by existing mass transit. In a national survey by the
19 University of Illinois at Chicago of over 500 riders of 23
20 federally funded community transportation projects under the
21 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program across the
22 nation, 68% of riders indicated that they would not be able
23 to reach their employment without this service. Furthermore,
24 the national evaluation of the JARC program by the General
25 Accounting Office illustrates that 65% of all projects have
26 extended existing fixed routes by schedule or location as
27 well as created connections to existing services. This
28 creates a need for innovative transportation to work
29 strategies that fit within local circumstances in Illinois.
30 Many localities around Illinois do not have the resources or
31 the expertise to develop and support innovative

1 transportation options. Localities need access to technical
2 assistance both in designing programs and in accessing
3 various sources of State and federal funds. Illinois also
4 leaves substantial federal transportation funds unclaimed
5 because of the failure to put forward projects to use the
6 funds. Thus, Illinois would benefit from an Interagency
7 Coordinating Committee to set priorities for improving access
8 to transportation for the transportation disadvantaged. The
9 General Accounting Office has found in its evaluation that
10 interagency collaboration has informed transit agencies of
11 how to better serve low-income communities by knowing where
12 jobs are located and a system of supports are found. Illinois
13 would also benefit from a unified State process to apply for
14 federal transportation assistance for innovative
15 transportation to work projects and strategies and for
16 identifying the matching funds necessary to access that
17 federal assistance. The purpose of this Act is to establish
18 the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transportation.

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

20 (1) "Agency" means an official, commission, authority,
21 council, department, committee, division, bureau, board, or
22 any other unit or entity of the State, a municipality, a
23 county, or other local governing body or a private
24 not-for-profit transportation service providing agency.

25 (2) "Committee" means the Illinois Coordinating
26 Committee on Transportation.

27 (3) "Coordination" means the arrangement for the
28 provision of transportation services to the transportation
29 disadvantaged in a manner that is cost-effective, efficient,
30 and reduces fragmentation and duplication of services.

31 (4) "Transportation disadvantaged" means those persons
32 who, because of physical or mental disability, income status,
33 age, location of residence, or other reasons are unable to

1 transport themselves or to purchase affordable transportation
2 and are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to
3 health care, employment, education, shopping, social
4 activities, or other life-sustaining activities.

5 Section 15. Committee. The Illinois Coordinating
6 Committee on Transportation is created and shall consist of
7 the following members:

8 (1) The Governor or his or her designee.

9 (2) The Secretary of Transportation or his or her
10 designee.

11 (3) The Secretary of Human Services or his or her
12 designee.

13 (4) The Director of Aging or his or her designee.

14 (5) The Director of Public Aid or his or her designee.

15 (6) The Director of Commerce and Community Affairs or
16 his or her designee.

17 (7) A representative of the Illinois Rural Transit
18 Assistance Center.

19 (8) A person who is a member of a recognized statewide
20 organization representing older residents of Illinois.

21 (9) A representative of centers for independent living.

22 (10) A representative of the Illinois Public
23 Transportation Association.

24 (11) A representative of an existing transportation
25 system that coordinates and provides transit services in a
26 multi-county area for the Department of Transportation,
27 Department of Human Services, Department of Commerce and
28 Community Affairs, or Department on Aging.

29 (12) A representative of a statewide organization of
30 rehabilitation facilities or other providers of services for
31 persons with one or more disabilities.

32 (13) A representative of a community-based organization.

33 (14) A representative of the Department of Public

1 Health.

2 (15) A representative of the Rural Partners.

3 (16) The Director of Employment Security or his or her
4 designee.

5 (17) A representative of a statewide business
6 association.

7 (18) A representative of the Illinois Council on
8 Developmental Disabilities.

9 The Governor shall appoint the members of the Committee
10 other than those named in paragraphs (1) through (6) and
11 paragraph (16) of this Section. The Governor or his or her
12 designee shall serve as chairperson of the Committee and
13 shall convene the meetings of the Committee. The Secretary of
14 Transportation and a representative of a community-based
15 organization involved in transportation or their designees,
16 shall serve as co-vice-chairpersons and shall be responsible
17 for staff support for the committee.

18 Section 20. Duties of Committee. The Committee shall
19 encourage the coordination of public and private
20 transportation services, with priority given to services
21 directed toward those populations who are currently not
22 served or who are underserved by existing public transit.

23 The Committee shall seek innovative approaches to
24 providing and funding local transportation services and offer
25 their expertise to communities statewide. Specifically, the
26 Committee shall:

27 (1) Coordinate a State process within federal guidelines
28 to facilitate coordination of community-based transportation
29 programs. This process should include: developing objectives
30 for providing essential transportation services to the
31 transportation disadvantaged; providing technical assistance
32 to communities that are addressing transportation gaps that
33 affect low-income populations; developing a process for

1 requesting federal funds such as the Job Access and Reverse
2 Commute (JARC) Grant program that is based on input from
3 communities statewide; assisting communities in identifying
4 funds from other available sources for projects that are not
5 an eligible use of JARC funds; and developing a plan to
6 identify and recruit potential stakeholders in future
7 community transportation initiatives to the Committee.

8 (2) Develop goals and objectives to reduce duplication
9 of services and achieve coverage that is as complete as
10 possible.

11 (3) Serve as a clearinghouse for information about
12 funding sources and innovations in serving the transportation
13 disadvantaged.

14 (4) Submit a report, not later than February 1, 2006, to
15 the Governor and the General Assembly that outlines the
16 progress made by the Committee in performing its duties set
17 forth in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this Section and makes
18 recommendations for statutory and regulatory changes to
19 promote coordination.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.