

1 AN ACT to create the Illinois Africa-America Peace Brigade.

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 Africa-America Peace Brigade Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative declaration.

7 (a) The General Assembly declares that it is the policy of  
8 this State to promote peace and friendship with African nations  
9 through the Illinois Africa-America Peace Brigade. The Peace  
10 Brigade shall make available to interested African nations men  
11 and women of this State qualified for service abroad and  
12 willing to serve under conditions of hardship if necessary. A  
13 purpose of the Peace Brigade is to help the peoples of African  
14 nations in meeting their needs for trained manpower,  
15 particularly in meeting the basic needs of those living in the  
16 poorest areas of those countries, and to help promote a better  
17 understanding of the citizens of this State on the part of the  
18 peoples served and a better understanding of other peoples on  
19 the part of the citizens of this State.

20 (b) The General Assembly declares that it is the policy of  
21 this State to promote the success of the descendants of persons  
22 from Africa who reside in this State. In order to meet this  
23 goal, the General Assembly finds that it is necessary to  
24 provide emergency resources, especially human resources, to  
25 the failing schools in the urban inner-city areas of this  
26 State. A purpose of the Peace Brigade is to provide those  
27 failing schools with their need for trained manpower in meeting  
28 the basic and remedial educational needs of African-American  
29 students.

30 Section 10. Definitions.

31 "Agency of the United States government" means any

1 department, board, wholly or partially owned corporation, or  
2 other instrumentality, commission, or establishment of the  
3 United States.

4 "Council" means the Illinois Africa-America Peace Brigade  
5 Advisory Council created by this Act.

6 "Director" means the Director of the Illinois  
7 Africa-America Peace Brigade.

8 "Peace Brigade" means the Illinois Africa-America Peace  
9 Brigade created by this Act.

10 "Secretary of State" means the Secretary of State of the  
11 United States.

12 "Volunteer", unless the context otherwise requires,  
13 includes volunteer leaders and applicants for enrollment as  
14 volunteers.

15 Section 15. Illinois Africa-America Peace Brigade;  
16 director and deputy director; rules.

17 (a) There is created the Illinois Africa-America Peace  
18 Brigade. The Peace Brigade shall be under the direction of a  
19 Director and a Deputy Director appointed by the Governor with  
20 the advice and consent of the Senate.

21 (b) The Director may adopt any rules necessary to carry out  
22 the purposes of this Act and to perform any of the duties of  
23 the Peace Brigade.

24 Section 20. Powers and duties.

25 (a) The Peace Brigade may enter into, perform, and modify  
26 contracts and agreements with and may otherwise cooperate with  
27 any agency of the United States government, any state, any  
28 State agency, or any educational institutions, voluntary  
29 agencies, farm organizations, labor unions, or other  
30 organizations, persons, or firms.

31 (b) The Director may, with the approval of the Secretary of  
32 State, assign volunteers to temporary duty with international  
33 organizations and agencies.

34 (c) The Director may assign volunteers to duty or make them

1 available to any entity referred to in subsection (a) of this  
2 Section in order to assist those entities in providing  
3 development or other assistance to African nations.

4 (d) In recognition of the fact that women in developing  
5 countries play a significant role in economic production,  
6 family support, and the overall development process, the Peace  
7 Brigade shall, whenever possible, give particular attention to  
8 programs and activities that integrate women into the economies  
9 of African nations.

10 (e) In recognition of the fact that 95% of the disabled  
11 people in the world are among the poorest of the poor, the  
12 Peace Brigade shall, whenever possible, give particular  
13 attention to programs and activities that integrate disabled  
14 people into the economies of African nations.

15 (f) The Director may, in cooperation with the State Board  
16 of Education and the State Superintendent of Education, assign  
17 volunteers to duty in urban inner-city schools in this State.

18 Section 25. Approval by the Secretary of State.

19 (a) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to infringe upon  
20 the powers or functions of the Secretary of State. In carrying  
21 out the purposes of this Act, the Director must seek the  
22 approval of the Secretary of State for any programs or  
23 activities of the Peace Brigade in foreign nations.

24 (b) Except with the approval of the Secretary of State, the  
25 Peace Brigade may not be assigned to perform services in  
26 foreign nations that could more usefully be performed by an  
27 agency of the United States government.

28 Section 30. Employees, experts, and consultants. The Peace  
29 Brigade may employ any personnel, in accordance with the  
30 Personnel Code, that may be necessary to carry out the purposes  
31 of this Act. The Peace Brigade may enter into contracts with  
32 any experts and consultants that it deems necessary to carry  
33 out the purposes of this Act.

1 Section 35. Volunteers.

2 (a) The Director may enroll in the Peace Brigade for  
3 service in African nations and in urban inner-city schools in  
4 this State qualified citizens of this State without regard to  
5 race, gender, creed, or color. No political test or  
6 qualification may be used in selecting any person for  
7 enrollment as a volunteer. No person may be assigned to duty as  
8 a volunteer in any foreign country unless at the time of the  
9 assignment he or she possess a reasonable proficiency in  
10 speaking the language of the country to which he or she will be  
11 assigned. The Director may, by rule, prescribe any other  
12 qualifications for volunteers.

13 (b) The terms and conditions of service of volunteers are  
14 those set forth in this Act and as the Director prescribes. The  
15 service of any volunteer may be terminated at the pleasure of  
16 the Director. Upon enrollment, every volunteer shall take an  
17 oath of office.

18 (c) Subject to appropriations, volunteers may be provided  
19 with any living, travel, and leave allowances and any housing,  
20 transportation, supplies, equipment, subsistence, and clothing  
21 that the Director determines is necessary for their maintenance  
22 and to insure their health and their capacity to serve  
23 effectively. Transportation and travel allowances may also be  
24 provided, as the Director determines, for applicants for  
25 enrollment as volunteers to or from places of training and  
26 places of enrollment and for former volunteers from places of  
27 service to their homes.

28 (d) Subject to appropriations, volunteers who serve in a  
29 foreign country may receive a readjustment allowance, in an  
30 amount determined by the Director, for each month of  
31 satisfactory service. The readjustment allowance of each  
32 volunteer is payable on his or her return to the United States.  
33 Under circumstances that the Director determines, however, the  
34 readjustment allowance, or any part thereof, may be paid to the  
35 volunteer or members of his or her family during the period of  
36 his or her service or before his or her return to the United

1 States. In the event of a volunteer's death during the period  
2 of service, the readjustment allowance shall be paid to his or  
3 her family.

4 (e) Subject to appropriation, volunteers, applicants for  
5 enrollment as volunteers, and former volunteers may receive any  
6 health examinations, immunizations, or health and dental care  
7 that the Director deems necessary or appropriate.

8 (f) In order to assure that the skills and experience of  
9 former volunteers are fully used, the Director may, in  
10 cooperation with agencies of the United States government,  
11 State agencies, private employers, educational institutions,  
12 and other entities, counsel volunteers with respect to  
13 opportunities for further education and employment.

14 (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, attorneys  
15 may be employed and attorneys' fees, court costs, bail, and  
16 other expenses incidental to the defense of volunteers may be  
17 paid in foreign judicial or administrative proceedings to which  
18 volunteers have been made parties.

19 (h) Subject to appropriation, the minor children of a  
20 volunteer that are living with the volunteer may receive:

21 (1) any living, travel, education, and leave  
22 allowances and any housing, transportation, subsistence,  
23 and clothing that the Director determines;

24 (2) any health care, including health care following  
25 the volunteer's service for an illness or injury incurred  
26 during the period of service, that the Director determines;

27 (3) any orientation, language, and other training that  
28 the Director determines; and

29 (4) the benefits of subsection (g) of this Section on  
30 the same basis of volunteers.

31 (i) Subject to appropriations, the cost of packing and  
32 unpacking, transporting to and from a place of storage, and  
33 storing the furniture and household and personal effects of a  
34 volunteer who has one or more minor children at the time of his  
35 or her entering pre-enrollment training may be paid from the  
36 date of his or her departure from his or her place of residence

1 to enter training until no later than 3 months after his or her  
2 service is terminated.

3 Section 40. Volunteer leaders. The Director may enroll as  
4 volunteer leaders in the Peace Brigade qualified citizens of  
5 this State whose services are required for supervisory or other  
6 special duties or responsibilities in connection with programs  
7 or activities under this Act. The ratio of the total number of  
8 volunteer leaders in service at any one time may not exceed one  
9 to 25. Volunteer leaders are entitled to the same benefits as  
10 volunteers.

11 Section 45. Training programs. The Director shall make  
12 provision for any training that he or she deems appropriate for  
13 each applicant for enrollment as a volunteer and each enrolled  
14 volunteer. All of the provisions of this Act that apply to  
15 volunteers apply to applicants for enrollment during any period  
16 of training occurring before enrollment.

17 Section 50. Applications; background check; enrollment.

18 (a) Applicants for enrollment as volunteers must submit any  
19 information, including fingerprints taken by a law enforcement  
20 officer, that the Director requires on a form furnished by the  
21 Director. The Director shall provide any information necessary  
22 for a background check to the Department of State Police. The  
23 Director may request that the Secretary of State conduct a  
24 security investigation of an applicant for enrollment for  
25 service in a foreign nation.

26 (b) If the Director is satisfied that an applicant meets  
27 the qualifications for a volunteer and after the applicant  
28 completes any pre-enrollment training that the Director  
29 requires, the applicant may be enrolled as a volunteer.

30 Section 55. Illinois Africa-America Peace Brigade Advisory  
31 Council.

32 (a) The Illinois Africa-America Peace Brigade Advisory

1 Council is created. The Council consists of 15 members  
2 appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the  
3 Senate. Members of the Council shall be broadly representative  
4 of the general public, including educational institutions;  
5 private volunteer agencies; private industry; farm  
6 organizations; labor unions; different regions of the State;  
7 different educational, economic, racial, and national  
8 backgrounds; different age groupings; and both genders. No  
9 member of the Council may be a State employee.

10 (b) The first appointments of members of the Council shall  
11 be made not more than 60 days after the effective date of this  
12 Act. Of the members initially appointed under this Section, 8  
13 shall be appointed to one-year terms and 7 shall be appointed  
14 to 2-year terms. Thereafter, all members shall serve 2-year  
15 terms. No member may serve for more than 2 consecutive 2-year  
16 terms.

17 Members of the Council serve at the pleasure of the  
18 Governor. A member of the Council may be removed by a vote of 9  
19 members for malfeasance in office, for persistent neglect of or  
20 inability to discharge duties, or for offenses involving moral  
21 turpitude.

22 Within 30 days after any vacancy occurs in the office of a  
23 member of the Council, the Governor shall nominate an  
24 individual to fill the vacancy. A member appointed to fill a  
25 vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which  
26 the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only  
27 for the remainder of that term.

28 (c) Members of the Council shall serve without  
29 compensation.

30 (d) A member of the Council must disclose to the Council  
31 the existence of any direct or indirect financial interest in  
32 any particular matter before the Council and may not vote or  
33 otherwise participate as a Council member with respect to that  
34 matter.

35 (e) At its first meeting and at its first regular meeting  
36 in each calendar year thereafter, the Council must elect a

1 chair and a vice-chair from its members. The chair and  
2 vice-chair may not be members of the same political party.

3 (f) The Council must hold a regular meeting during each  
4 calendar year and shall meet at the call of the Governor, the  
5 Director, the chair, or 1/4 of its members. The Council shall  
6 adopt any by-laws and rules that it considers necessary to  
7 carry out its functions. The by-laws and rules must include  
8 procedures for fixing the time and place of meetings, giving or  
9 waiving notice of meetings, and keeping minutes of meetings. A  
10 majority of the members of the Council constitute a quorum for  
11 the purposes of transacting any business.

12 (g) The Council shall evaluate the accomplishments of the  
13 Peace Brigade, assess the potential capabilities and the future  
14 role of the Peace Brigade, and make recommendations to the  
15 Governor, the Director, and, as the Council considers  
16 appropriate, the General Assembly for the purpose of guiding  
17 the future direction of the Peace Brigade and of helping to  
18 ensure that the purposes and programs of the Peace Brigade are  
19 carried out in ways that are economical, efficient, responsive  
20 to changing needs, and in accordance with the law. The Council  
21 may also make any other evaluations, assessments, and  
22 recommendations it considers appropriate.

23 Subject to appropriation, the Council may conduct on-site  
24 inspections and make examinations of the activities of the  
25 Peace Brigade in other countries.

26 (h) Not later than January 1 of each year, the Council must  
27 submit to the Governor and the Director a report on its views  
28 on the programs and activities of the Peace Brigade. Each  
29 report must contain a summary of the advice and recommendations  
30 of the Council. Within 90 days after receiving the report, the  
31 Governor must submit the report to the General Assembly,  
32 together with any comments concerning the report that the  
33 Governor or the Director considers appropriate.

34 (i) The Director shall make available to the Council any  
35 personnel, administrative support services, and technical  
36 assistance necessary to carry out its functions effectively.



1 Section 60. Report. At least once during each fiscal year,  
2 the Governor must report on the programs and activities of the  
3 Peace Brigade under this Act to the General Assembly. The  
4 report must include:

5 (1) a description of the purpose and scope of any  
6 project that the Peace Brigade undertook during the  
7 preceding fiscal year; and

8 (2) recommendations for improving coordination of  
9 projects between the Peace Brigade, the United States, and  
10 other State agencies.

11 Section 805. The Department of State Police Law of the  
12 Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is amended by adding  
13 Section 2605-345 as follows:

14 (20 ILCS 2605/2605-345 new)

15 Sec. 2605-345. Criminal background investigations for the  
16 Illinois Africa-America Peace Brigade. Upon the request of the  
17 Director of the Illinois Africa-America Peace Brigade, to  
18 conduct criminal background investigations of applicants for  
19 enrollment as volunteers in the Illinois Africa-America Peace  
20 Brigade and to report any criminal history information to the  
21 Director of the Illinois Africa-America Peace Brigade. The  
22 request shall be in the form and manner specified by the  
23 Department.