



## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

HB5501

Introduced 2/5/2010, by Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Commission to End Hunger Act. Provides that because it is the goal of the State that no man, woman, or child should ever be faced with hunger, the General Assembly authorizes the Department of Human Services to create the Commission to End Hunger. Provides that the purpose of the Commission shall be to develop an action plan every 2 years, review the progress of this plan, and ensure cross-collaboration among government entities and community partners toward the goal of ending hunger in Illinois. Further provides that the key duties of the Commission shall include identifying all funding sources which can be used toward ending hunger; identifying barriers to access, and developing sustainable policies and programs to address those barriers; and promoting and facilitating public-private partnerships. Provides that the Commission shall be composed of no more than 21 voting members, including 15 public members representing various community and public service organizations, who shall be appointed by the Governor and shall reflect the racial, gender, and geographic diversity of the State. Provides that the Secretary of Human Services, the State Superintendent of Education, the Director of Healthcare and Family Services, the Director of Children and Family Services, the Director of Aging, and the Director of Agriculture shall serve as ex-officio members of the Commission, and that subject to appropriation, the Office of the Governor and the Department of Human Services shall provide administrative support. Contains provisions on commission meetings and reporting requirements. Effective immediately.

LRB096 18425 KTG 33803 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning hunger.

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 Commission to End Hunger Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings. It is the goal of the  
7 State of Illinois that no man, woman, or child should ever be  
8 faced with hunger.

9 Despite being one of the wealthiest nations and the largest  
10 agricultural producer in the world, the United States is a  
11 country with pervasive hunger and Illinois is not exempt from  
12 this reality. In Illinois, hunger is less a story of starvation  
13 and more one of hunger and access, of individuals and families  
14 simply not having access to enough healthful, nutritious food.  
15 The number of families facing food emergencies is growing.  
16 Requests for emergency food assistance grew by an estimated 30  
17 percent nationally in 2009 alone.

18 The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which  
19 defines food security as "access by all people at all times to  
20 enough nutritious food for an active, healthy life," also  
21 estimates that between 2006 and 2008, 11.1 percent of Illinois  
22 households experienced food insecurity. Nearly 1/3 of those  
23 households were considered very food insecure. It is important

1 to note that the USDA numbers only reflect what was taking  
2 place between 2006 and 2008. Since then, the economy has  
3 significantly weakened, and there are likely many more people  
4 struggling with hunger than what the USDA report states.

5 When examining hunger in the region, participation levels  
6 in existing nutrition programs are an indicator of the level of  
7 need in the community. However, many nutrition programs are  
8 underutilized by the families and individuals that need them,  
9 so while examining program participation data, it is important  
10 to keep in mind that this likely under represents the true need  
11 in the community. It is estimated that only 79 percent of  
12 Illinoisans eligible for SNAP benefits were enrolled as of  
13 2006.

14 The School Breakfast Program (School Breakfast) and the  
15 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), two child-focused  
16 programs, are also underutilized. Illinois currently ranks  
17 51st amongst all states and the District of Columbia in  
18 enrollment for free and reduced priced school breakfasts.  
19 Illinois earned this bottom ranking because less than 33% of  
20 eligible children (those who receive free and reduced lunch)  
21 are also accessing School Breakfast. According to a report  
22 released by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC),  
23 increasing school breakfast participation in Illinois to just  
24 60% would yield an additional \$42,655,714 in federal funds and  
25 would result in 189,668 more children receiving breakfast  
26 everyday. Likewise, increasing the participation rate in the

1 SFSP to just 40% would result in Illinois receiving over \$9.2  
2 million in additional federal funds and in thousands of  
3 children continuing to have access to breakfast or lunch, or  
4 both, during the summer months.

5 Opportunities exist in several areas to eliminate barriers  
6 preventing individuals from accessing quality, nutritious  
7 food. Establishing a statewide Commission to End Hunger will  
8 guarantee cross-collaboration among government entities and  
9 community partners and is essential to eliminating these  
10 barriers and ensuring that no man, woman, or child in Illinois  
11 should ever be faced with hunger.

12 Section 10. Creation of the Commission to End Hunger.

13 (a) The General Assembly authorizes the Department of Human  
14 Services to create the Commission to End Hunger.

15 (b) The purpose of the Commission to End Hunger shall be to  
16 develop an action plan every 2 years, review the progress of  
17 this plan, and ensure cross-collaboration among government  
18 entities and community partners toward the goal of ending  
19 hunger in Illinois.

20 (c) Key duties of the Commission shall include the  
21 following:

22 (1) Identify all funding sources which can be used  
23 toward ending hunger, for which the State has  
24 administrative control, and develop recommendations for  
25 future funding.

1           (2) Identify barriers to access and develop  
2 sustainable polices and programs to address those  
3 barriers.

4           (3) Promote and facilitate public-private  
5 partnerships.

6           (4) Develop benchmarks and set goals to indicate  
7 success.

8           (5) Report to the Governor and the General Assembly on  
9 progress.

10           Section 15. Members. The Commission to End Hunger shall be  
11 composed of no more than 21 voting members including 2 members  
12 of the Illinois House of Representatives, one appointed by the  
13 Speaker of the House and one appointed by the House Minority  
14 Leader; 2 members of the Illinois Senate, one appointed by the  
15 Senate President and one appointed by the Senate Minority  
16 Leader; one representative of the Office of the Governor  
17 appointed by the Governor; one representative of the Office of  
18 the Lieutenant Governor appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;  
19 and 15 public members, who shall be appointed by the Governor.

20           The public members shall include 2 representatives of food  
21 banks; 2 representatives from other community food assistance  
22 programs; a representative of a statewide organization focused  
23 on responding to hunger; a representative from an anti-poverty  
24 organization; a representative of an organization that serves  
25 or advocates for children and youth; a representative of an

1 organization that serves or advocates for older adults; a  
2 representative of an organization that advocates for people who  
3 are homeless; a representative of an organization that serves  
4 or advocates for persons with disabilities; a representative of  
5 an organization that advocates for immigrants; a  
6 representative of a municipal or county government; a  
7 representative of a township government; and 2 at-large  
8 members. The appointed members shall reflect the racial,  
9 gender, and geographic diversity of the State and shall include  
10 representation from regions of the State.

11 The following officials shall serve as ex-officio members:  
12 the Secretary of Human Services or his or her designee; the  
13 State Superintendent of Education or his or her designee; the  
14 Director of Healthcare and Family Services or his or her  
15 designee; the Director of Children and Family Services or his  
16 or her designee; the Director of Aging or his or her designee;  
17 and the Director of Agriculture or his or her designee. The  
18 African-American Family Commission and the Latino Family  
19 Commission shall each designate a liaison to serve ex-officio  
20 on the Commission.

21 Members shall serve without compensation, but, subject to  
22 the availability of funds, public members may be reimbursed for  
23 reasonable and necessary travel expenses connected to  
24 Commission business.

25 Commission members shall be appointed within 60 days after  
26 the effective date of this Act. The Commission shall hold their

1 initial meetings within 60 days after at least 50% of the  
2 members have been appointed.

3 The representative of the Office of the Governor and a  
4 representative of a food bank shall serve as co-chairs of the  
5 Commission.

6 At the first meeting of the Commission, the members shall  
7 select a 5-person Steering Committee that includes the  
8 co-chairs.

9 The Commission may establish committees that address  
10 specific issues or populations and may appoint individuals with  
11 relevant expertise who are not appointed members of the  
12 Commission to serve on committees as needed.

13 Subject to appropriation, the Office of the Governor, or a  
14 designee of the Governor's choosing, shall provide  
15 administrative support to the Commission. Under the leadership  
16 of the Office of the Governor, subject to appropriation, the  
17 Department of Human Services shall provide administrative  
18 support to the Commission.

19 Section 20. Meetings and reports. The full Commission shall  
20 meet at least twice annually. The Steering Committee shall meet  
21 at least quarterly.

22 The Commission shall issue an interim report on its  
23 activities and recommendations to the constitutional officers  
24 and to the General Assembly no later than 12 months from the  
25 date of the first Commission meeting.

1           A work plan shall be adopted by the Commission not later  
2 than 12 months from the date of the first Commission meeting  
3 and sent to the constitutional officers and to the General  
4 Assembly. Following the adoption of the initial work plan, the  
5 Commission shall continue to meet and issue annual reports  
6 regarding progress on the goal of ending hunger in Illinois and  
7 on the implementation of the work plan.

8           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
9 becoming law.