

1 AN ACT concerning environmental justice.

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 Environmental Justice Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
7 finds that:

8 (i) the principle of environmental justice requires
9 that no segment of the population, regardless of race,
10 national origin, age, or income, should bear
11 disproportionately high or adverse effects of
12 environmental pollution;

13 (ii) certain communities in the State may suffer
14 disproportionately from environmental hazards related to
15 facilities with permits approved by the State; and

16 (iii) these environmental hazards can cause long-term
17 health effects.

18 Section 10. Commission on Environmental Justice.

19 (a) The Commission on Environmental Justice is established
20 and consists of the following 20 voting members:

21 (1) 2 members of the Senate, one appointed by the
22 President of the Senate and the other by the Minority

1 Leader of the Senate, each to serve at the pleasure of the
2 appointing officer;

3 (2) 2 members of the House of Representatives, one
4 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
5 and the other by the Minority Leader of the House of
6 Representatives, each to serve at the pleasure of the
7 appointing officer;

8 (3) the following ex officio members: the Director of
9 Aging or his or her designee, the Director of Commerce and
10 Economic Opportunity or his or her designee, the Director
11 of the Environmental Protection Agency or his or her
12 designee, the Director of Natural Resources or his or her
13 designee, the Director of Public Health or his or her
14 designee, and the Director of Transportation or his or her
15 designee; and

16 (4) 10 members appointed by the Governor who represent
17 the following interests:

18 (i) affected communities concerned with
19 environmental justice;

20 (ii) business organizations;

21 (iii) environmental organizations;

22 (iv) experts on environmental health and
23 environmental justice;

24 (v) units of local government; and

25 (vi) members of the general public who have an
26 interest or expertise in environmental justice.

1 (b) Of the initial members of the Commission appointed by
2 the Governor, 5 shall serve for a 2-year term and 5 shall serve
3 for a 1-year term, as designated by the Governor at the time of
4 appointment. Thereafter, the members appointed by the Governor
5 shall serve 2-year terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same
6 manner as appointments. Members of the Commission appointed by
7 the Governor may not receive compensation for their service on
8 the Commission and are not entitled to reimbursement for
9 expenses.

10 (c) The Governor shall designate a Chairperson from among
11 the Commission's members. The Commission shall meet at the call
12 of the Chairperson, but no later than 90 days after the
13 effective date of this Act and at least quarterly thereafter.

14 (d) The Commission shall:

15 (1) advise State entities on environmental justice and
16 related community issues;

17 (2) review and analyze the impact of current State laws
18 and policies on the issue of environmental justice and
19 sustainable communities;

20 (3) assess the adequacy of State and local laws to
21 address the issue of environmental justice and sustainable
22 communities;

23 (4) develop criteria to assess whether communities in
24 the State may be experiencing environmental justice
25 issues; and

26 (5) recommend options to the Governor for addressing

1 issues, concerns, or problems related to environmental
2 justice that surface after reviewing State laws and
3 policies, including prioritizing areas of the State that
4 need immediate attention.

5 (e) On or before October 1, 2011 and each October 1
6 thereafter, the Commission shall report its findings and
7 recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.

8 (f) The Environmental Protection Agency shall provide
9 administrative and other support to the Commission.

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law.