

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

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 Urban  
5 Flooding Awareness Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act, "urban  
7 flooding" means the inundation of property in a built  
8 environment, particularly in more densely populated areas,  
9 caused by rainfall overwhelming the capacity of drainage  
10 systems, such as storm sewers. "Urban flooding" does not  
11 include flooding in undeveloped or agricultural areas. "Urban  
12 flooding" includes (i) situations in which stormwater enters  
13 buildings through windows, doors, or other openings, (ii) water  
14 backup through sewer pipes, showers, toilets, sinks, and floor  
15 drains, (iii) seepage through walls and floors, and (iv) the  
16 accumulation of water on property or public rights-of-way.

17 Section 10. Urban Flooding Study. By June 30, 2015, the  
18 Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the  
19 Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois  
20 Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Housing  
21 Development Authority, the Department of Commerce and Economic  
22 Development, the Department of Insurance, the Federal

1 Emergency Management Agency, the Metropolitan Water  
2 Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the Illinois State  
3 Water Survey of the University of Illinois, and other State,  
4 regional, and local storm water management agencies, thought  
5 leaders, and interested parties as the Director of Natural  
6 Resources deems appropriate, shall submit to the General  
7 Assembly and the Governor a report that reviews and evaluates  
8 the latest available information, research, laws, regulations,  
9 policies, procedures, and institutional knowledge, with  
10 recommendations based on the findings in relation to:

11 (1) the prevalence and costs associated with urban flooding  
12 events across the State, and the trends in frequency and  
13 severity over the past two decades;

14 (2) the apparent impact of global climate change on urban  
15 flooding;

16 (3) the impacts of county stormwater programs on urban  
17 flooding over the past 2 decades, including a listing of  
18 projects and programs and the flood damages avoided;

19 (4) an evaluation of policies, such as using the 100-year  
20 storm as the standard for designing urban stormwater detention  
21 infrastructure and the 10-year storm for the design of  
22 stormwater conveyance systems;

23 (5) a review of technology to evaluate the risk of property  
24 damage from urban flooding and whether a property is in or  
25 adjacent to a 1% (100-year) floodplain or not, including LiDAR  
26 and geographic information systems;

1           (6) strategies for minimizing damage to property from urban  
2 flooding, with a focus on rapid, low-cost approaches, such as  
3 non-structural and natural infrastructure, and methods for  
4 financing them;

5           (7) the consistency of the criteria for State funding of  
6 flood control projects between the Department of Natural  
7 Resources, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and the  
8 Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development;

9           (8) strategies for increasing participation in the  
10 National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System;  
11 and

12           (9) strategies and practices to increase the availability,  
13 affordability and effectiveness of flood insurance and  
14 basement back-up insurance.

15           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
16 becoming law.