

AN ACT concerning State government.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Mississippi River Coordinating Council Act is amended by changing Sections 10, 15, and 20 as follows:

(20 ILCS 4003/10)

Sec. 10. Mississippi River Coordinating Council.

(a) There is established the Mississippi River Coordinating Council (Council), consisting of 16 ~~13~~ voting members to be appointed by the Governor. One member shall be the Lieutenant Governor who shall serve as a voting member and as chairperson of the Council. The agency members of the Council shall include the Directors, or their designees, of the following: the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, the Historic Preservation Agency, and the Department of Transportation. In addition, the Council shall include one member representing Soil and Water Conservation Districts located in the proximity of the Mississippi River and its tributaries, and 8 ~~6~~ members representing local communities, not-for-profit organizations working to protect the Mississippi River and its tributaries, businesses,

agriculture, recreation, conservation, and the environment, 2
of which must reside within a county that is adjacent to the
Mississippi River.

(b) The Governor may appoint, as ex-officio members, individuals representing the interests of the states who border the Mississippi River and individuals representing federal agencies.

(c) Members of the Council shall serve 2-year terms, except that of the initial appointments, 5 members shall be appointed to serve 3-year terms and 4 members to serve one-year terms.

(d) The Council shall meet at least quarterly.

(e) The Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall be responsible for the operations of the Council, including, without limitation, funding and oversight of the Council's activities. The Office may reimburse members of the Council for travel expenses.

(f) This Section is subject to the provisions of Section 405-500 of the Department of Central Management Services Law.

(g) The members of the Council shall appoint one member of the Council to serve as the Illinois representative to the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission.

(Source: P.A. 94-996, eff. 1-1-07.)

(20 ILCS 4003/15)

Sec. 15. Duties of the Council.

(a) The Council shall:

(1) periodically review activities and programs administered by State and federal agencies that directly impact the Mississippi River and its tributaries;

(2) work with local communities and organizations to encourage partnerships that enhance awareness and capabilities to address watershed and water resource concerns and to encourage strategies that protect, restore, and expand critical habitats and soil conservation and water quality practices;

(3) work with State and federal agencies to optimize the expenditure of funds affecting the Mississippi River and its tributaries;

(4) advise and make recommendations to the Governor and State agencies on ways to better coordinate the expenditure of appropriated funds affecting the Mississippi River and its tributaries;

(5) encourage local communities to develop water management plans to address stormwater, erosion, flooding, sedimentation, and pollution problems and encourage projects for the natural conveyance and storage of floodwaters, the enhancement of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities, the recovery, management, and conservation of the Mississippi River and its tributaries, the preservation of farmland, prairies, and forests, and the use of measurable economic development efforts that are compatible with the ecological health of

the State; and

(6) help identify possible sources of additional funding for Mississippi River water management projects and projects and activities related to the Great River Road, a national scenic and recreational highway.

(b) Subject to appropriation, the Council may pay for a membership to the National Mississippi River Commission.

(Source: P.A. 94-996, eff. 1-1-07.)

(20 ILCS 4003/20)

Sec. 20. Agency duties. State agencies represented on the Council shall provide to the Council, on request, information concerning agency programs, data, and activities that impact the restoration and preservation of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The Secretary of Transportation, the Director of Agriculture, the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of Historic Preservation, the Director of Natural Resources, and the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall each designate at least one employee from his or her respective agency to assist the Council.

(Source: P.A. 94-996, eff. 1-1-07.)

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