



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB4552

Introduced 1/31/2024, by Rep. Gregg Johnson

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 801/1-15

Amends the Department of Natural Resources Act. Requires the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a study of the economic impact of requiring at least 25% of the plants used in landscaping projects on State property and at least 25% of plants used in landscaping projects financed with State funds to be species native to the State.

LRB103 37385 JAG 67506 b

1 AN ACT concerning conservation.

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

4 Section 5. The Department of Natural Resources Act is
5 amended by changing Section 1-15 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 801/1-15)

7 Sec. 1-15. General powers and duties.

8 (a) It shall be the duty of the Department to investigate
9 practical problems, implement studies, conduct research and
10 provide assistance, information and data relating to the
11 technology and administration of the natural history,
12 entomology, zoology, and botany of this State; the geology and
13 natural resources of this State; the water and atmospheric
14 resources of this State; and the archeological and cultural
15 history of this State.

16 (b) The Department (i) shall obtain, store, and process
17 relevant data; recommend technological, administrative, and
18 legislative changes and developments; cooperate with other
19 federal, state, and local governmental research agencies,
20 facilities, or institutes in the selection of projects for
21 study; cooperate with the Board of Higher Education and with
22 the public and private colleges and universities in this State
23 in developing relevant interdisciplinary approaches to

1 problems; and evaluate curricula at all levels of education
2 and provide assistance to instructors and (ii) may sponsor an
3 annual conference of leaders in government, industry, health,
4 and education to evaluate the state of this State's
5 environment and natural resources.

6 (c) The Director, in accordance with the Personnel Code,
7 shall employ such personnel, provide such facilities, and
8 contract for such outside services as may be necessary to
9 carry out the purposes of the Department. Maximum use shall be
10 made of existing federal and state agencies, facilities, and
11 personnel in conducting research under this Act.

12 (c-5) The Department may use the services of, and enter
13 into necessary agreements with, outside entities for the
14 purpose of evaluating grant applications and for the purpose
15 of administering or monitoring compliance with grant
16 agreements. Contracts under this subsection shall not exceed 2
17 years in length.

18 (d) In addition to its other powers, the Department has
19 the following powers:

20 (1) To obtain, store, process, and provide data and
21 information related to the powers and duties of the
22 Department under this Act. This subdivision (d)(1) does
23 not give authority to the Department to require reports
24 from nongovernmental sources or entities.

25 (2) To cooperate with and support the Illinois Science
26 and Technology Advisory Committee and the Illinois

1 Coalition for the purpose of facilitating the effective
2 operations and activities of such entities. Support may
3 include, but need not be limited to, providing space for
4 the operations of the Committee and the Illinois
5 Coalition.

6 (e) The Department is authorized to make grants to local
7 not-for-profit organizations for the purposes of development,
8 maintenance and study of wetland areas.

9 (f) The Department has the authority to accept, receive
10 and administer on behalf of the State any gifts, bequests,
11 donations, income from property rental and endowments. Any
12 such funds received by the Department shall be deposited into
13 the DNR Special Projects Fund, a trust fund in the State
14 treasury, and used for the purposes of this Act or, when
15 appropriate, for such purposes and under such restrictions,
16 terms and conditions as are predetermined by the donor or
17 grantor of such funds or property. Any accrued interest from
18 money deposited into the DNR Special Projects Fund shall be
19 reinvested into the Fund and used in the same manner as the
20 principal. The Director shall maintain records which account
21 for and assure that restricted funds or property are disbursed
22 or used pursuant to the restrictions, terms or conditions of
23 the donor.

24 (g) The Department shall recognize, preserve, and promote
25 our special heritage of recreational hunting and trapping by
26 providing opportunities to hunt and trap in accordance with

1 the Wildlife Code.

2 (h) Within 5 years after the effective date of this
3 amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly, the Department
4 shall fly a United States Flag, an Illinois flag, and a POW/MIA
5 flag at all State parks. Donations may be made by groups and
6 individuals to the DNR Special Projects Fund for costs related
7 to the implementation of this subsection.

8 (i) The Department shall conduct a study of the economic
9 impact of requiring at least 25% of plants used in landscaping
10 projects on State property and at least 25% of plants used in
11 landscaping projects financed with State funds to be species
12 native to the State.

13 (Source: P.A. 102-388, eff. 1-1-22; 102-699, eff. 4-19-22;
14 103-363, eff. 7-28-23.)