

SB2766



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB2766

Introduced 1/17/2024, by Sen. Patrick J. Joyce

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Kankakee River Basin Conservancy Task Force. Provides that the Task Force shall study water resources and water-related land resources of the Kankakee River Basin. Requires the Task Force to conduct a study on the environmental and economic impact of the Kankakee River Basin on surrounding land, infrastructure, and property. Requires the Task Force to submit its first report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2026. Requires the Department of Natural Resources to provide administrative and other support to the Task Force. Provides for the repeal of the Act on January 1, 2027.

LRB103 36556 JAG 66663 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning conversation.

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 Kankakee River Basin Conservancy Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds the
7 following:

8 (1) The Kankakee River Basin in Illinois runs through
9 all or parts of Iroquois County, Kankakee County, and Will
10 County. Any precipitation that occurs in the basin will
11 eventually make its way to the Kankakee River before
12 reaching the outlet near Wilmington, Illinois.

13 (2) Tributaries of the Kankakee River include the
14 Iroquois River, Sugar Creek, and the Yellow River.

15 (3) Just south of Wilmington, Illinois, the Kankakee
16 River meets the Des Plaines River to form the Illinois
17 River.

18 (4) Due to generally flat terrain throughout the Basin
19 and shallow river slopes, heavy rainfall occurring in the
20 region tends to cause the river to crest quickly and cause
21 major flooding. Due to the effects of climate change,
22 these floods are happening more frequently, causing damage
23 to property, crops, and infrastructure.

1 Section 10. Kankakee River Basin Conservancy Task Force.
2 The Kankakee River Basin Conservancy Task Force is created to
3 study water resources and water-related land resources of the
4 Kankakee River Basin in Illinois. The Kankakee River Basin
5 Conservancy Task Force shall consist of the following persons:

6 (1) two members appointed by the Iroquois County Board
7 Chair;

8 (2) two members appointed by the Kankakee County Board
9 Chair;

10 (3) two members appointed by the Will County Board
11 Chair;

12 (4) the Director of Natural Resources, or his or her
13 designee; and

14 (5) the Executive Director of the Illinois Farm
15 Bureau, or his or her designee.

16 Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation
17 and are not subject to Senate confirmation.

18 Section 15. Duties of the Kankakee River Basin Conservancy
19 Task Force. The Task Force shall:

20 (1) conduct a study on the environmental and economic
21 impact of the Kankakee River Basin on surrounding land,
22 infrastructure, and property;

23 (2) develop a plan to address drain infrastructure
24 issues, with a focus on flood control, drainage

1 maintenance, and environmental enhancements; and
2 (3) implement a system to promote and sustain the
3 development of surface and groundwater, address water
4 quality in the River, restore and protect fisheries,
5 restore and protect wetlands and aquatic habitat, and
6 ensure future viability of water supplies in the basin.

7 Section 20. Report. On or before January 1, 2026, the Task
8 Force shall submit its first report to the General Assembly,
9 by filing copies of its report with the General Assembly, as
10 provided in Section 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization
11 Act, and with the Governor.

12 Section 25. Administrative support. The Department of
13 Natural Resources shall provide administrative and other
14 support to the Task Force.

15 Section 30. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,
16 2027.