

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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 and  
2 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 environment  
5 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 carry  
9 out the purposes of the Department. Maximum use shall be made  
10 of existing federal and state agencies, facilities, and  
11 personnel in conducting research under this Act.

12 (d) In addition to its other powers, the Department has the  
13 following powers:

14 (1) To obtain, store, process, and provide data and  
15 information related to the powers and duties of the  
16 Department under this Act. This subdivision (d)(1) does not  
17 give authority to the Department to require reports from  
18 nongovernmental sources or entities.

19 (2) To cooperate with and support the Illinois Science  
20 and Technology Advisory Committee and the Illinois  
21 Coalition for the purpose of facilitating the effective  
22 operations and activities of such entities. Support may  
23 include, but need not be limited to, providing space for  
24 the operations of the Committee and the Illinois Coalition.

25 (e) The Department is authorized to make grants to local  
26 not-for-profit organizations for the purposes of development,

1 maintenance and study of wetland areas.

2 (f) The Department has the authority to accept, receive and  
3 administer on behalf of the State any gifts, bequests,  
4 donations, income from property rental and endowments. Any such  
5 funds received by the Department shall be deposited into the  
6 Natural Resources Fund, a special fund which is hereby created  
7 in the State treasury, and used for the purposes of this Act  
8 or, when appropriate, for such purposes and under such  
9 restrictions, terms and conditions as are predetermined by the  
10 donor or grantor of such funds or property. Any accrued  
11 interest from money deposited into the Natural Resources Fund  
12 shall be reinvested into the Fund and used in the same manner  
13 as the principal. The Director shall maintain records which  
14 account for and assure that restricted funds or property are  
15 disbursed or used pursuant to the restrictions, terms or  
16 conditions of the donor.

17 (g) The Department shall recognize, preserve, and promote  
18 our special heritage of recreational hunting and trapping by  
19 providing opportunities to hunt and trap in accordance with the  
20 Wildlife Code.

21 (h) No license, permit, or other fee imposed or collected  
22 by the Department, and no related federal funds received by the  
23 State for the use of the Department, shall be used for any  
24 purpose other than the administration of the Department or the  
25 implementation and enforcement of its policies and programs or  
26 any purpose not in compliance with the federal funding

1 requirements.

2 (Source: P.A. 91-357, eff. 7-29-99; 91-582, eff. 8-14-99;  
3 92-326, eff. 8-9-01.)

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