



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB5654

by Rep. William Davis

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

525 ILCS 50/2	from Ch. 48, par. 2552
525 ILCS 50/4	from Ch. 48, par. 2554
525 ILCS 50/6	from Ch. 48, par. 2556
525 ILCS 50/8.5 new	
525 ILCS 50/9	

Amends the Illinois Veteran, Youth, and Young Adult Conservation Jobs Act. Creates the Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps for the purpose of making grants to local sponsors to provide wages to young adults operating and instructing in conservation or recreational programs. Provides that local sponsors who can provide necessary facilities, materials, and management for summer conservation or recreational activities within the community may apply to the Department of Natural Resources for a grant under the Act for the purpose of hiring managing supervisors and eligible young adults for conservation or recreational programs. Provides that the Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps shall be limited to citizens of this State who, at the time of enrollment, are unemployed, are 18 through 25 years of age, and who have skills that can be used in the summer conservation or recreational program. Provides that the Department shall adopt reasonable rules pertaining to the administration of the Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps. Extends the maximum period of employment with the Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps from 6 months to 12 months. Effective immediately.

LRB098 20177 MGM 55499 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 Illinois Veteran, Youth, and Young Adult
5 Conservation Jobs Act is amended by changing Sections 2, 4, 6,
6 and 9 and by adding Section 8.5 as follows:

7 (525 ILCS 50/2) (from Ch. 48, par. 2552)

8 Sec. 2. Declaration of Intent. The General Assembly finds
9 that the level of unemployment among veterans, the youths of
10 this State, particularly those age 14 through 18, and young
11 adults, age 18 through 25, is unsatisfactory. This situation is
12 not conducive to the development of veterans and the youth and
13 young adults of Illinois as the future of the State. The
14 General Assembly further finds that the availability of
15 conservation and recreational programs for veterans, youth,
16 and young adults in parks and recreational facilities and other
17 lands operated by the State, by units of local government, and
18 by local not-for-profit entities is severely limited. The
19 General Assembly therefore creates the Illinois Veteran,
20 Youth, and Young Adult Conservation Jobs Act to establish (a)
21 the Illinois Veteran Conservation Corps and the Illinois Young
22 Adult Conservation Corps to provide year-round employment for
23 veterans and young adults of this State for the purpose of

1 conservation, rehabilitation, protection and enhancement of
2 the State's public land and (b) the Illinois Veteran Recreation
3 Corps, ~~and~~ the Illinois Youth Recreation Corps, and the
4 Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps to provide employment for
5 the veterans, ~~and~~ youth, and young adults of this State for the
6 purpose of administering and operating conservation or
7 recreational programs operated by units of local government or
8 local not-for-profit entities at conservation and open spaces,
9 parks, or recreational facilities or other similar facilities
10 or locations.

11 (Source: P.A. 97-738, eff. 7-5-12.)

12 (525 ILCS 50/4) (from Ch. 48, par. 2554)

13 Sec. 4. Definition of Terms. For the purposes of this Act:

14 (a) "Department" means the Department of Natural
15 Resources.

16 (b) "Director" means the Director of Natural Resources.

17 (c) "Local sponsor" means any unit of local government or
18 not-for-profit entity that can make available for a summer
19 conservation or recreation program park lands, conservation or
20 recreational lands or facilities, equipment, materials,
21 administration, supervisory personnel, etc.

22 (d) "Managing supervisor" means an enrollee in the Illinois
23 Veteran Recreation Corps, ~~or~~ the Illinois Youth Recreation
24 Corps, or the Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps who is
25 selected by the local sponsor to supervise the activities of

1 the veterans, ~~or~~ youth, or young adults employee enrollees
2 working on the conservation or recreation project. A managing
3 supervisor in the Illinois Youth Recreation Corps may be 19
4 years of age or older.

5 (e) "Veteran" means an Illinois resident who has served or
6 is currently serving as a member of the United States Armed
7 Forces, a member of the Illinois National Guard, or a member of
8 a Reserve Component of the United States Armed Forces.

9 (Source: P.A. 97-738, eff. 7-5-12; 98-463, eff. 8-16-13.)

10 (525 ILCS 50/6) (from Ch. 48, par. 2556)

11 Sec. 6. Funding. Funding for the Illinois Veteran, Youth,
12 and Young Adult Conservation Jobs Act shall be from any State
13 or federal funds or grants or other funding so received by the
14 Department and any matching funds required by the Department
15 from local sponsors that choose to participate in the Illinois
16 Veteran Recreation Corps, ~~or~~ the Illinois Youth Recreation
17 Corps, or the Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps programs.

18 (Source: P.A. 97-738, eff. 7-5-12.)

19 (525 ILCS 50/8.5 new)

20 Sec. 8.5. Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps.

21 (a) The Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps is
22 established for the purpose of making grants to local sponsors
23 to provide wages to young adults operating and instructing in
24 conservation or recreational programs. The programs shall

1 provide conservation or recreational opportunities and shall
2 include, but are not limited to, the coordination and teaching
3 of natural resource conservation and management, physical
4 activities, or learning activities directly related to natural
5 resource conservation management or recreation. The programs
6 may charge user fees, but the fees shall be designed to promote
7 as much community involvement as possible, as determined by the
8 Department.

9 (b) Local sponsors who can provide necessary facilities,
10 materials, and management for summer conservation or
11 recreational activities within the community may apply to the
12 Department for a grant under this Act for the purpose of hiring
13 managing supervisors, as necessary, and eligible young adults
14 for conservation or recreational programs. Applications shall
15 be evaluated on the basis of program content, location, need,
16 local commitment of resources, and consistency with the
17 purposes of this Act.

18 (c) The Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps shall be
19 limited to citizens of this State who, at the time of
20 enrollment, are unemployed, are 18 through 25 years of age, and
21 who have skills that can be used in the summer conservation or
22 recreational program.

23 The ratio of young adult employee enrollees to managing
24 supervisors shall not be less than 10 to 1 for any local
25 sponsor with a total number of young adult employee enrollees
26 of 10 or more. Any local sponsor program with a total number of

1 young adult employee enrollees of less than 10 shall be limited
2 to one managing supervisor.

3 The local sponsors shall make public notification of the
4 availability of jobs for eligible young adults in the Illinois
5 Young Adult Recreation Corps by the means of newspapers,
6 electronic media, educational facilities, units of local
7 government, and Department of Employment Security offices.
8 Application for employment shall be made directly to the local
9 sponsor.

10 The Department shall adopt reasonable rules pertaining to
11 the administration of the Illinois Young Adult Recreation
12 Corps.

13 (d) The enrollment period for any successful applicant of
14 the program shall not be longer than 12 months. Once enrolled
15 in the program, each enrollee shall receive a reasonable wage
16 as set by the Department and shall work hours as required by
17 the conservation or recreation program as determined by the
18 Department, except that an enrollee working as a managing
19 supervisor shall receive a higher wage than an enrollee working
20 in any other capacity on the conservation or recreation
21 program. Enrollees shall be employees of the local sponsor and
22 not contractual hires for the purpose of employment taxes,
23 except that enrollees shall not be classified as employees of
24 this State or the local sponsor for purposes of contributions
25 to the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois or any
26 other public employee retirement system.

1 (525 ILCS 50/9)

2 Sec. 9. Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps. With respect to
3 the Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps:

4 (a) Purpose. The Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps is
5 established for the purpose of making grants to local sponsors
6 to provide wages to veterans of any age operating and
7 instructing in conservation or recreational programs. Such
8 programs shall provide conservation or recreational
9 opportunities and shall include, but are not limited to, the
10 coordination and teaching of natural resource conservation and
11 management, physical activities, or learning activities
12 directly related to natural resource conservation management
13 or recreation. Such programs may charge user fees, but such
14 fees shall be designed to promote as much community involvement
15 as possible, as determined by the Department.

16 (b) Application. Local sponsors who can provide necessary
17 facilities, materials, and management for summer conservation
18 or recreational activities within the community and who desire
19 a grant under this Act for the purpose of hiring managing
20 supervisors as necessary and eligible veterans for such
21 conservation or recreational programs may make application to
22 the Department. Applications shall be evaluated on the basis of
23 program content, location, need, local commitment of
24 resources, and consistency with the purposes of this Act.

25 (c) Enrollment. The Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps

1 shall be limited to citizens of this State who at the time of
2 enrollment are veterans of any age and are unemployed and who
3 have skills that can be utilized in the summer conservation or
4 recreational program. Preference may be given to veterans with
5 a disability.

6 The ratio of veterans employee enrollees to a managing
7 supervisor must not be less than 10 to 1 for any local sponsor
8 with a total number of veterans employee enrollees of 10 or
9 more. Any local sponsor program with a total number of veteran
10 employee enrollees of less than 10 must be limited to one
11 managing supervisor. Veterans who are unemployed shall be given
12 preference for employment as managing supervisors.

13 The local sponsors shall make public notification of the
14 availability of jobs for eligible veterans in the Illinois
15 Veteran Recreation Corps by the means of newspapers, electronic
16 media, educational facilities, units of local government, and
17 Department of Employment Security offices. Application for
18 employment shall be made directly to the local sponsor.

19 The Department shall adopt reasonable rules pertaining to
20 the administration of the Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps.

21 (d) Terms of employment. The enrollment period for any
22 successful applicant of the program shall not be longer than 12
23 ~~6 total~~ months. Once enrolled in the program, each enrollee
24 shall receive a reasonable wage as set by the Department and
25 shall work hours as required by the conservation or recreation
26 program but not in excess of a maximum number of hours as

1 determined by the Department, except that an enrollee working
2 as a managing supervisor shall receive a higher wage than an
3 enrollee working in any other capacity on the conservation or
4 recreation program. Enrollees shall be employees of the local
5 sponsor and not contractual hires for the purpose of employment
6 taxes, except that enrollees shall not be classified as
7 employees of the State or the local sponsor for purposes of
8 contributions to the State Employees' Retirement System of
9 Illinois or any other public employee retirement system.

10 (Source: P.A. 97-738, eff. 7-5-12; 98-463, eff. 8-16-13.)

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