



## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

SB3521

Introduced 2/14/2014, by Sen. Mattie Hunter

#### 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	

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. Effective immediately.

LRB098 20270 MGM 55677 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, and  
6 6 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. Young adults who are unemployed  
3 shall be given preference for employment as managing  
4 supervisors.

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

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

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

1 to the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois or any  
2 other public employee retirement system.

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