

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
5 (Conservation) Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois
6 is amended by changing Section 805-535 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 805/805-535) (was 20 ILCS 805/63b2.2)

8 Sec. 805-535. Conservation Police Officers. In addition to
9 the arrest powers prescribed by law, Conservation Police
10 Officers are conservators of the peace and as such have all
11 powers possessed by policemen, except that they may exercise
12 those powers anywhere in this State. Conservation Police
13 Officers acting under the authority of this Section are
14 considered employees of the Department and are subject to its
15 direction, benefits, and legal protection.

16 The Department of Natural Resources shall implement
17 measures to ensure that the Office of Law Enforcement
18 establishes and maintains a sworn police force of at least 175
19 personnel by July 1, 2020. Accrual of sworn conservation police
20 officers along with necessary support staff shall be added
21 incrementally beginning with Fiscal Year 2016 with subsequent
22 additions established until the goal is reached. Anytime the
23 number of sworn officers drops below a minimum of 165, the

1 Department shall immediately implement hiring procedures to
2 reestablish the number of sworn officers back to 175.

3 Any person hired by the Department of Natural Resources
4 after July 1, 2001 for a sworn law enforcement position or
5 position that has arrest authority must meet the following
6 minimum professional standards:

7 (1) At the time of hire, the person must hold (i) a
8 2-year degree and 3 consecutive years of experience as a
9 police officer with the same law enforcement agency or (ii)
10 a 4-year degree.

11 (2) The person must possess the skill level and
12 demonstrate the ability to swim at a competency level
13 approved by the Department in an administrative rule. The
14 Department's administrative rule must require the person
15 to use techniques established by the American Red Cross.

16 (3) The person must successfully obtain certification
17 as a police officer under the standards in effect at that
18 time unless that person already holds that certification
19 and must also successfully complete the Conservation
20 Police Academy training program, consisting of not less
21 than 400 hours of training, within one year of hire.

22 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, all persons
23 who either (i) have been honorably discharged and who have been
24 awarded a Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal,
25 Korean Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq
26 Campaign Medal, or Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

1 by the United States Armed Forces or (ii) are active members of
2 the Illinois National Guard or a reserve component of the
3 United States Armed Forces and who have been awarded a
4 Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Korean
5 Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq
6 Campaign Medal, or Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
7 as a result of honorable service during deployment on active
8 duty, are deemed to have met the collegiate educational
9 requirements for a sworn law enforcement position or position
10 that has arrest authority.

11 The Department of Natural Resources must adopt an
12 administrative rule listing those disciplines that qualify as
13 directly related areas of study and must also adopt, by
14 listing, the American Red Cross standards and testing points
15 for a skill level equivalent to an intermediate level swimmer.

16 (Source: P.A. 96-972, eff. 7-2-10; 97-948, eff. 8-13-12.)