

AN ACT concerning State government.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The State Finance Act is amended by changing Sections 5.411, 5.412, and 6z-32 as follows:

(30 ILCS 105/5.411)

Sec. 5.411. The Partners for Conservation ~~2000~~ Fund.
(Source: P.A. 89-49, eff. 6-29-95; 89-626, eff. 8-9-96.)

(30 ILCS 105/5.412)

Sec. 5.412. The Partners for Conservation ~~2000~~ Projects Fund.
(Source: P.A. 89-49, eff. 6-29-95; 89-626, eff. 8-9-96.)

(30 ILCS 105/6z-32)

Sec. 6z-32. Partners for Planning and Conservation
~~Conservation 2000~~.

(a) The Partners for Conservation ~~2000~~ Fund (formerly known as the Conservation 2000 Fund) and the Partners for Conservation ~~2000~~ Projects Fund (formerly known as the Conservation 2000 Projects Fund) are created as special funds in the State Treasury. These funds shall be used to establish a comprehensive program to protect Illinois' natural resources

through cooperative partnerships between State government and public and private landowners. Moneys in these Funds may be used, subject to appropriation, by the Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department ~~Departments~~ of Agriculture, ~~Natural Resources,~~ and ~~Transportation~~ for purposes relating to natural resource protection, planning, recreation, tourism, and compatible agricultural and economic development activities. Without limiting these general purposes, moneys in these Funds may be used, subject to appropriation, for the following specific purposes:

(1) To foster sustainable agriculture practices and control soil erosion and sedimentation, including grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts for conservation practice cost-share grants and for personnel, educational, and administrative expenses.

(2) To establish and protect a system of ecosystems in public and private ownership through conservation easements, incentives to public and private landowners, natural resource restoration and preservation, water quality protection and improvement, land use and watershed planning, ~~including~~ technical assistance and grants, and land acquisition provided these mechanisms are all voluntary on the part of the landowner and do not involve the use of eminent domain.

(3) To develop a systematic and long-term program to

effectively measure and monitor natural resources and ecological conditions through investments in technology and involvement of scientific experts.

(4) To initiate strategies to enhance, use, and maintain Illinois' inland lakes through education, technical assistance, research, and financial incentives.

(5) To partner with private landowners and with units of State, federal, and local government and with not-for-profit organizations in order to integrate State and federal programs with Illinois' natural resource protection and restoration efforts and to meet requirements to obtain federal and other funds for conservation or protection of natural resources. ~~To conduct an extensive review of existing Illinois water laws.~~

(b) The State Comptroller and State Treasurer shall automatically transfer on the last day of each month, beginning on September 30, 1995 and ending on June 30, 2021 ~~2009~~, from the General Revenue Fund to the Partners for Conservation ~~2000~~ Fund, an amount equal to 1/10 of the amount set forth below in fiscal year 1996 and an amount equal to 1/12 of the amount set forth below in each of the other specified fiscal years:

Fiscal Year	Amount
1996	\$ 3,500,000
1997	\$ 9,000,000
1998	\$10,000,000

1999	\$11,000,000
2000	\$12,500,000
2001 through 2004	\$14,000,000
2005	\$7,000,000
2006	\$11,000,000
2007	\$0
2008 through <u>2021</u> 2009	\$14,000,000

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary and in addition to any other transfers that may be provided for by law, on the last day of each month beginning on July 31, 2006 and ending on June 30, 2007, or as soon thereafter as may be practical, the State Comptroller shall direct and the State Treasurer shall transfer \$1,000,000 from the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Fund to the Conservation 2000 Fund.

(d) There shall be deposited into the Partners for Conservation ~~2000~~ Projects Fund such bond proceeds and other moneys as may, from time to time, be provided by law.

(Source: P.A. 93-839, eff. 7-30-04; 94-91, eff. 7-1-05; 94-839, eff. 6-6-06.)