



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4594

Introduced 2/3/2026, by Rep. Kimberly Du Buclet

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 801/1-25

Amends the Department of Natural Resources Act. In a provision that directs the Department of Natural Resources to contribute to and support the operations, programs, and capital development of public museums in the State, deletes a provision requiring public museums that receive funds for capital development to match State funds with local or private funding in accordance with certain requirements.

LRB104 17972 TRT 31409 b

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 1-25 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 801/1-25)

7 Sec. 1-25. Illinois State Museum. In addition to its other
8 powers and duties, the Department shall have the following
9 powers and duties which shall be performed by the State
10 Museum:

11 (1) To investigate and study the natural resources and
12 histories of the State and to prepare printed reports and
13 furnish information fundamental to the conservation and
14 development of natural resources, and, for that purpose
15 and for the purpose of upholding federal requirements
16 under the Native American Grave Protection and
17 Repatriation Act, the officers and employees thereof may,
18 pursuant to rule adopted by the Department, enter and
19 cross all lands in this State, doing no damage to private
20 property.

21 (2) To cooperate with and advise departments having
22 administrative powers and duties relating to the natural
23 resources of the State, and to cooperate with similar

1 departments in other states, with tribal nations, and with
2 the United States Government.

3 (3) To cooperate with the Illinois State Academy of
4 Science and to publish a suitable number of the results of
5 the investigations and research in the field of natural
6 science to the end that the same may be distributed to the
7 interested public. This cooperation shall not grant any
8 special rights, authority, or privileges to the Academy.

9 (4) To maintain a State Museum, and to collect and
10 preserve objects of scientific, historic, and artistic
11 value, representing past and present fauna and flora, the
12 life and work of humankind, geological history, natural
13 resources, and the manufacturing and fine arts; to welcome
14 visitors of all ages to the State Museum; and to interpret
15 for and educate the public concerning the foregoing. The
16 State Museum shall work with Native Americans to create an
17 interpretation of Native American histories and art
18 directed by tribal partners.

19 (5) At the sole discretion of the Department, the
20 State Museum may cooperate with the Illinois State Museum
21 Society for the benefit of the State Museum. This
22 cooperation shall not grant any special rights, authority,
23 or privileges to the Society. Upon the recommendation of
24 the State Museum Director with the approval of the
25 Director of the Department, the State Museum may enter
26 into agreements with the Society for the operation of a

1 sales counter and other concessions for the benefit of the
2 State Museum and the Society. The State Museum may enter
3 into agreements with the Society for programs at or
4 outside the State Museum. The Society shall be solely
5 responsible for its own budget and the preparation of the
6 budget, its staff, its equipment, its supplies, and its
7 programs.

8 (6) To accept grants of property and to hold property
9 to be administered as part of the State Museum for the
10 purpose of preservation, research of interpretation of
11 significant areas within the State for the purpose of
12 preserving, studying, and interpreting history and
13 archaeological and natural phenomena and for the purpose
14 of upholding Native American Grave Protection and
15 Repatriation Act requirements.

16 (7) To contribute to and support the operations,
17 programs and capital development of public museums in this
18 State. For the purposes of this Section, "public museum"
19 means a facility: (A) that is operating for the purposes
20 of promoting cultural development through special
21 activities or programs or through performing arts that are
22 performed in an indoor setting, and acquiring, conserving,
23 preserving, studying, interpreting, enhancing, and in
24 particular, organizing and continuously exhibiting
25 specimens, artifacts, articles, documents and other things
26 of historical, anthropological, archaeological,

1 industrial, scientific or artistic import, to the public
2 for its instruction and enjoyment, and (B) that either (i)
3 is operated by or located upon land owned by a unit of
4 local government or (ii) is a museum that has an annual
5 attendance of at least 150,000 and offers educational
6 programs to school groups during school hours. A museum is
7 eligible to receive funds for capital development under
8 this subdivision (7) only if it is operated by or located
9 upon land owned by a unit of local government or if it is
10 certified by a unit of local government in which it is
11 located as a public museum meeting the criteria of this
12 Section. ~~Recipients of funds for capital development under~~
13 ~~this subdivision (7) shall match State funds with local or~~
14 ~~private funding according to the following:~~

15 ~~(a) for a public museum with an attendance of~~
16 ~~300,000 or less during the preceding calendar year, no~~
17 ~~match is required;~~

18 ~~(b) for a public museum with an attendance of over~~
19 ~~300,000 but less than 600,000 during the preceding~~
20 ~~calendar year, the match must be at a ratio of \$1 from~~
21 ~~local and private funds for every \$1 in State funds;~~
22 ~~and~~

23 ~~(c) for a public museum with an attendance of over~~
24 ~~600,000 during the preceding calendar year, the match~~
25 ~~must be at a ratio of \$2 from local and private funds~~
26 ~~for every \$1 in State funds.~~

1 The Department shall formulate rules and regulations
2 relating to the allocation of any funds appropriated by
3 the General Assembly for the purpose of contributing to
4 the support of public museums in this State.

5 (8) To perform all other duties and assume all
6 obligations of the former Department of Energy and Natural
7 Resources and the former Department of Registration and
8 Education pertaining to the State Museum.

9 (9) To work in collaboration with the Division of
10 Historic Preservation of the Department in the exercise of
11 all the rights, powers, and duties conferred upon the
12 Department under the Historic Preservation Act.

13 (Source: P.A. 102-1005, eff. 5-27-22; 103-835, eff. 8-9-24.)