



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5515

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Yolonda Morris

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

70 ILCS 1505/7.08a new

Amends the Chicago Park District Act. Authorizes the Chicago Park District, in collaboration with the botanic gardens authorized under the Forest Preserve Botanic Gardens Act, to establish, maintain, and manage small public gardens throughout the City of Chicago. Provides that each public garden shall include a native landscape aimed at protecting butterfly populations that migrate through the City of Chicago. Defines "Illinois native plants" and "native landscape".

LRB104 17941 TRT 31378 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 Chicago Park District Act is amended by  
5 adding Section 7.08a as follows:

6 (70 ILCS 1505/7.08a new)

7 Sec. 7.08a. Native butterfly garden.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Illinois native plants" means trees, shrubs, vines,  
10 ferns, flowers, forbs, sedges, grasses, and other plants  
11 growing in the State of Illinois before European settlement.

12 "Illinois native plants" does not include exotic or noxious  
13 weeds regulated under the Illinois Noxious Weed Law or the  
14 Illinois Exotic Weed Act.

15 "Native landscape" means an intentionally maintained area  
16 of trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, flowers, forbs, sedges,  
17 grasses, and other plants composed mainly of Illinois native  
18 plants. "Native landscape" does not include exotic or noxious  
19 weeds regulated under the Illinois Noxious Weed Law or the  
20 Illinois Exotic Weed Act.

21 (b) The Chicago Park District shall, in collaboration with  
22 the botanic gardens authorized under the Forest Preserve  
23 Botanic Gardens Act, establish, maintain, and manage small

1 public gardens throughout the City of Chicago. Each public  
2 garden shall include a native landscape aimed at protecting  
3 butterfly populations that migrate through the City of  
4 Chicago.