



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2435

Introduced 2/7/2025, by Sen. Karina Villa

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 735/2	from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 9302
30 ILCS 735/4	from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 9304
30 ILCS 735/5	from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 9305
30 ILCS 735/6	from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 9306
525 ILCS 40/2.1	from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 5903

Amends the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Act. Provides that requests for grant assistance shall include, but not be limited to, those activities that will implement or enhance: (1) current Illinois Forest Action Plans objectives; (2) local Forestry Program management objectives as determined by an urban and community forestry management plan; (3) build tree canopy capacity in underserved and disadvantaged areas of communities or counties; or (4) improve urban and community forest canopy in Illinois communities and counties. Makes changes in provisions duties of the Department of Natural Resources; the concerning grants. amounts. Defines terms.

LRB104 09195 HLH 19252 b

1 AN ACT concerning finance.

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

4 Section 5. The Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Act
5 is amended by changing Sections 2, 4, 5, and 6 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 735/2) (from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 9302)

7 Sec. 2. Definitions. As used in this Act, unless the
8 context otherwise requires, the following terms have the
9 meanings ascribed to them in this Section:

10 "Applicant" means either (i) a unit of local government or
11 (ii) an ~~An~~ Illinois ~~chartered~~ not-for-profit corporation
12 that is working to assist units of local government and or the
13 Department to meet the goals of this Act ~~as defined in the~~
14 ~~General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 can be a~~
15 ~~co-applicant with a unit of local government.~~

16 "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.

17 "Director" means the Director of Natural Resources.

18 "Not-for-profit corporation" means an Illinois chartered
19 not-for-profit corporation as defined in the General
20 Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of 1986.

21 "Public trees" means trees that are owned by a unit of
22 local government.

23 "Public tree inventory" means an inventory or assessment

1 of public trees and has collected data and provides
2 recommended action items to enable or enhance the future
3 management of the trees and forests (i.e., establishment,
4 conservation, protection, and maintenance).

5 "Underserved or Disadvantaged" means a community, county,
6 or portion thereof that is determined by the USDA Forest
7 Service for federal grant purposes as underserved or
8 disadvantaged.

9 "Urban and ~~∕~~ Community Forestry Proposal" means a written
10 proposal documenting proposed action to be implemented to
11 complete a specific project approved by the Department under
12 this Act.

13 "Urban and ~~∕~~ Community Forestry Management Plan" means a
14 comprehensive document used to guide urban and ~~∕~~ community
15 forestry management decisions that is based on a public tree
16 inventory that that is less than 10 years old. It may contain
17 ~~contains~~ information on history, policy, budget, inventory
18 analysis of the forest ecosystem resources and management
19 prescriptions, but at a minimum must contain ~~and other~~
20 information prescribed by rules promulgated by the Department.
21 (Source: P.A. 89-172, eff. 1-1-96; 89-445, eff. 2-7-96.)

22 (30 ILCS 735/4) (from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 9304)

23 Sec. 4. Duties of Department. The Department shall:

24 (a) Promote the development of Urban and Community
25 Forestry plans and programs in communities of this State to

1 enhance ~~for~~ the establishment, management, and conservation of
2 public trees located within ~~the urban/community forest with~~
3 units of local government.

4 (b) Provide technical expertise, assistance, guidance,
5 planning, and analysis to grant recipients for programs,
6 projects, and other works related to urban and ~~+~~ community
7 forestry.

8 (c) Seek and review for approval acceptable
9 Urban/Community Forestry Proposals submitted by applicants
10 within the State.

11 (d) Provide oversight and assistance ~~to units of local~~
12 ~~government and~~ to grant recipients in managing urban and
13 community forestry related grant proposals and programs
14 ~~regarding urban/community forest management, such as tree~~
15 ~~care, disease and insect problems, and tree planting and~~
16 ~~maintenance.~~

17 (e) Provide urban and community forestry information and
18 guidance to the Illinois ~~Council on~~ Forestry Development
19 Council and other State ~~appropriate~~ agencies and units of
20 government seeking urban and community forestry information or
21 guidance ~~with regard to urban/community forestry.~~

22 (Source: P.A. 89-172, eff. 1-1-96.)

23 (30 ILCS 735/5) (from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 9305)

24 Sec. 5. Application for assistance; forestry plan.

25 (a) Applicants may submit an Urban and ~~+~~ Community

1 Forestry Proposal for assistance under the provisions of this
2 Act.

3 (b) Requests for grant assistance shall include, but not
4 be limited to, those activities that will implement or
5 enhance:

6 (1) current Illinois Forest Action Plans objectives;

7 (2) local Forestry Program management objectives as
8 determined by an urban and community forestry management
9 plan;

10 (3) build tree canopy capacity in underserved and
11 disadvantaged areas of communities or counties; or

12 (4) improve urban and community forest canopy in
13 Illinois communities and counties. ~~a portion of the~~
14 ~~applicant's forestry program or forestry management plan~~
15 ~~or will lead to the development of a forestry management~~
16 ~~plan for the unit of local government.~~

17 (c) Multiple applicants may apply jointly for assistance
18 under this Act, but payments shall only be paid in the manner
19 as approved by the Department in the grant award.

20 (d) The Department shall evaluate the application and
21 notify the applicant of the qualification or non-qualification
22 of the application. The evaluation shall consider, among other
23 factors, the effect of the proposal on ~~each of~~ the following:

24 (1) The facilitation of improvements to the quality of
25 the environment in Illinois forests, urban areas, and
26 green space areas within the applicant's jurisdiction

1 through the improved management and preservation of the
2 urban and ~~∕~~ community forest resources for the common
3 good, health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of this
4 State.

5 (2) The creation of employment opportunities in tree
6 Care, preservation ~~maintenance~~ and related urban and ~~∕~~
7 community forestry activities.

8 (3) The improvement of human health, environmental
9 access, and ~~Maximizing the potential of tree and~~
10 ~~vegetative cover to reduce urban heat island effect and in~~
11 ~~reducing~~ energy consumption.

12 (4) The establishment and commitment to the management
13 and improvement of the forest resources of the community.

14 (5) An increased public awareness.

15 (6) Increased participation of local citizenry and
16 volunteers.

17 (7) Increased assistance to underserved or
18 disadvantaged Illinois communities or counties.

19 (Source: P.A. 89-172, eff. 1-1-96.)

20 (30 ILCS 735/6) (from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 9306)

21 Sec. 6. Grants; sources and amounts. Urban and ~~∕~~ Community
22 Forestry Assistance Grants shall be made available from
23 appropriations from the General Revenue Fund, Illinois
24 Forestry Development Fund, or other sources as appropriated by
25 the General Assembly. All ~~The~~ grants shall be limited to

1 projects for which the applicant will provide any costs or
2 matching funds as required under the notice of funding
3 opportunity for the grant for which they have applied at least
4 ~~50% of the cost. A single grant to a unit of local government~~
5 ~~shall not exceed 5% of the amount allocated for the grant~~
6 ~~program by the Department in the current fiscal year. The~~
7 ~~Department shall seek and obtain the advice of the Forestry~~
8 ~~Development Council with respect to awarding grants under this~~
9 ~~Section.~~

10 In the event that any unit of local government's
11 contribution ~~of the municipality's contribution~~ to the payment
12 of the program's cost ~~of the program~~ is to be made by
13 contribution of in kind service, the application shall set
14 forth in detail how such contribution will be made. In-kind
15 contributions shall follow and meet all current federal and
16 state grant requirements for in-kind contributions as set out
17 in the grant award.

18 Units of local government may delegate program
19 administration, including the receipt and expenditure of
20 funds, to special boards by ordinance.

21 (Source: P.A. 91-157, eff. 7-16-99.)

22 Section 10. The State Forest Act is amended by changing
23 Section 2.1 as follows:

24 (525 ILCS 40/2.1) (from Ch. 96 1/2, par. 5903)

1 Sec. 2.1. The following described areas are designated as

2 State forests:

3 Big River State Forest in Henderson County;

4 ~~Sand Ridge State Forest in Mason County;~~

5 Hidden Springs State Forest in Shelby County;

6 Lowden-Miller State Forest in Ogle County;

7 Sand Ridge State Forest in Mason County;

8 Spoon River State Forest in Knox County;

9 Trail of Tears State Forest in Union County;

10 Wildcat Hollow State Forest in Effingham County.

11 (Source: P.A. 78-817.)