



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3955

Introduced 2/6/2026, by Sen. Erica Harriss

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 882/5  
20 ILCS 882/10  
20 ILCS 882/15 new  
20 ILCS 882/20 new  
20 ILCS 882/25 new  
20 ILCS 882/30 new

Amends the Natural Resource Restoration Trust Fund Act. Provides that the Department of Natural Resources shall establish the Natural Resource Restoration Trust Grant Program to make grants to applicants for the restoration or replacement of injured or damaged natural resources resulting from claims pursued under the laws of the United States, the laws of this State, other statutory laws, or common law. Provides that the following entities may apply for grants under the Act: (i) units of local government; (ii) soil and water conservation districts; (iii) area-wide agencies, including counties, regional planning agencies, or both; (iv) nonprofit organizations; (iv) public or private institutes of higher education; (v) port authorities; and (vi) federally recognized tribes. Provides that the Department shall issue grants if (i) the requested grant complies with the purpose for which the Department was to provide funds and is subject to the requirements of all applicable court orders and (ii) the grant complies with the criteria established by administrative rule for the issuance of the grant. Provides that grants shall not be awarded to a grantee that is responsible for the pollution event that is the subject or basis for the issuance of the grant. Effective July 1, 2027.

LRB104 18259 BDA 34113 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 Natural Resources Restoration Trust Fund  
5 Act is amended by changing Sections 5 and 10 and by adding  
6 Sections 15, 20, 25, and 30 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 882/5)

8 Sec. 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

9 "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.

10 ~~"Director" means the Director of Natural Resources.~~

11 "Fund" means the Natural Resources Restoration Trust Fund  
12 created in Section 10 of this Act.

13 (Source: P.A. 98-1010, eff. 8-19-14.)

14 (20 ILCS 882/10)

15 Sec. 10. The Natural Resources Restoration Trust Fund.

16 (a) There is hereby created in the State treasury the  
17 Natural Resources Restoration Trust Fund to receive deposits  
18 of moneys available from or intended for the investigation,  
19 assessment, restoration, or replacement of injured or damaged  
20 natural resources resulting from claims pursued under the laws  
21 of the United States, this State, or other statutory or common  
22 law. The fund may receive deposits of moneys made available

1 from any other source. All moneys in the fund are to be  
2 invested and reinvested by the State Treasurer. All interest  
3 accruing from these investments shall be deposited in the  
4 fund. Moneys received through settlement or litigation of  
5 claims for injured natural resources and directed at the  
6 restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or the acquisition  
7 of the equivalent of injured natural resources and the  
8 benefits they provide, shall be available for those uses until  
9 the funds are expended.

10 (b) All moneys deposited into the fund shall be used by the  
11 Department of Natural Resources to:

12 (1) Take necessary or appropriate action to  
13 investigate and assess the nature and extent of injuries  
14 or damage to Illinois natural resources and the benefits  
15 they provide.

16 (2) Take necessary or appropriate action to restore,  
17 rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of  
18 injured or damaged natural resources and the benefits they  
19 provide.

20 (3) Meet any requirements which must be met by the  
21 State in order to obtain federal funds, or any other  
22 funds, to address injury or damage to natural resources.

23 (4) Pay for the cost of Department personnel,  
24 contractual, professional, or technical services to review  
25 or perform natural resource injury or damage assessments,  
26 natural resource restoration or replacement actions,

1 environmental or ecological risk assessments,  
2 environmental impact assessment actions, or other  
3 activities related to environmental contamination of real  
4 property.

5 (5) Administer the provisions of this Section.

6 (6) Issue grants as authorized by this Act.

7 (c) The General Assembly shall annually appropriate to the  
8 fund such amounts as it deems necessary to fulfill the  
9 purposes of this Section.

10 (d) The Department may accept, receive, and administer on  
11 behalf of the State any moneys made available to the State from  
12 any source for the purposes set forth in this Section. These  
13 moneys may be in addition to any other funds otherwise  
14 appropriated to the Department for similar purposes. Interest  
15 or income earned on moneys deposited into the fund shall be  
16 retained in the fund to be used by the Department pursuant to  
17 the provisions of this Section.

18 (Source: P.A. 98-1010, eff. 8-19-14.)

19 (20 ILCS 882/15 new)

20 Sec. 15. Natural Resource Restoration Trust Grant Program.

21 The Department shall establish the Natural Resource  
22 Restoration Trust Grant Program to make grants to applicants  
23 for the restoration or replacement of injured or damaged  
24 natural resources resulting from claims pursued under the laws  
25 of the United States, the laws of this State, other statutory

1 laws, or common law. The Natural Resources Restoration Trust  
2 Grant Program shall exist for the purpose of restoring,  
3 rehabilitating, replacing, or acquiring the equivalent of  
4 injured natural resources and ecosystem services similar to  
5 those injured as a result of a pollution event, regardless of  
6 the length of time or size of the event, subject to the  
7 conditions and limitations set forth in this Act or for the  
8 purposes as directed by a Court order.

9 (20 ILCS 882/20 new)

10 Sec. 20. Entities that may apply to grant program.  
11 Entities that may apply to the Department for a grant under  
12 this Act, include:

13 (1) units of local government;

14 (2) soil and water conservation districts;

15 (3) area-wide agencies, including counties, regional  
16 planning agencies, or both;

17 (4) nonprofit organizations;

18 (5) institutes of higher education;

19 (6) port authorities; and

20 (7) federally recognized tribes.

21 (20 ILCS 882/25 new)

22 Sec. 25. Eligibility for grants. The Department shall  
23 issue grants pursuant to this Act if the following conditions  
24 are met:

1           (1) The grant complies with the purpose for which the  
2           Department was to provide funds and the requirements of  
3           all applicable court orders.

4           (2) The grant complies with the criteria established  
5           by rule for the issuance of the grant.

6           No grant shall be awarded to a grantee that is responsible  
7           for the pollution event that is the subject or basis for the  
8           issuance of the grant.

9           (20 ILCS 882/30 new)

10           Sec. 30. Rulemaking authority. The Department shall adopt  
11           rules to administer this Act.

12           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
13           1, 2027.