

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 1-15 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 801/1-15)

7 Sec. 1-15. General powers and duties.

8 (a) It shall be the duty of the Department to investigate
9 practical problems, implement studies, conduct research and
10 provide assistance, information and data relating to the
11 technology and administration of the natural history,
12 entomology, zoology, and botany of this State; the geology and
13 natural resources of this State; the water and atmospheric
14 resources of this State; and the archeological and cultural
15 history of this State.

16 (b) The Department (i) shall obtain, store, and process
17 relevant data; recommend technological, administrative, and
18 legislative changes and developments; cooperate with other
19 federal, state, and local governmental research agencies,
20 facilities, or institutes in the selection of projects for
21 study; cooperate with the Board of Higher Education and with
22 the public and private colleges and universities in this State
23 in developing relevant interdisciplinary approaches to

1 problems; and evaluate curricula at all levels of education
2 and provide assistance to instructors and (ii) may sponsor an
3 annual conference of leaders in government, industry, health,
4 and education to evaluate the state of this State's
5 environment and natural resources.

6 (c) The Director, in accordance with the Personnel Code,
7 shall employ such personnel, provide such facilities, and
8 contract for such outside services as may be necessary to
9 carry out the purposes of the Department. Maximum use shall be
10 made of existing federal and state agencies, facilities, and
11 personnel in conducting research under this Act.

12 (d) In addition to its other powers, the Department has
13 the following powers:

14 (1) To obtain, store, process, and provide data and
15 information related to the powers and duties of the
16 Department under this Act. This subdivision (d)(1) does
17 not give authority to the Department to require reports
18 from nongovernmental sources or entities.

19 (2) To cooperate with and support the Illinois Science
20 and Technology Advisory Committee and the Illinois
21 Coalition for the purpose of facilitating the effective
22 operations and activities of such entities. Support may
23 include, but need not be limited to, providing space for
24 the operations of the Committee and the Illinois
25 Coalition.

26 (e) The Department is authorized to make grants to local

1 not-for-profit organizations for the purposes of development,
2 maintenance and study of wetland areas.

3 (f) The Department has the authority to accept, receive
4 and administer on behalf of the State any gifts, bequests,
5 donations, income from property rental and endowments. Any
6 such funds received by the Department shall be deposited into
7 the Natural Resources Fund, a special fund which is hereby
8 created in the State treasury, and used for the purposes of
9 this Act or, when appropriate, for such purposes and under
10 such restrictions, terms and conditions as are predetermined
11 by the donor or grantor of such funds or property. Any accrued
12 interest from money deposited into the Natural Resources Fund
13 shall be reinvested into the Fund and used in the same manner
14 as the principal. The Director shall maintain records which
15 account for and assure that restricted funds or property are
16 disbursed or used pursuant to the restrictions, terms or
17 conditions of the donor.

18 (g) The Department shall recognize, preserve, and promote
19 our special heritage of recreational hunting and trapping by
20 providing opportunities to hunt and trap in accordance with
21 the Wildlife Code.

22 (h) Within 5 years after the effective date of this
23 amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly, the Department
24 shall fly a United States Flag, an Illinois flag, and a POW/MIA
25 flag at all State parks. Donations may be made by groups and
26 individuals to the Department's Special Projects Fund for

1 costs related to the implementation of this subsection.

2 (Source: P.A. 91-357, eff. 7-29-99; 91-582, eff. 8-14-99;

3 92-326, eff. 8-9-01.)