

# HB5488



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5488

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Rep. Maura Hirschauer

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Legacy Tree Program Task Force Act. Provides that the Legacy Tree Program Task Force shall establish recommendations to promote the identification, awareness, commemoration, and preservation of significant trees within the State. Sets forth provisions concerning the membership of the Task Force, compensation of members, support to the Task Force, and responsibilities of the Task Force. Provides that the Act is repealed on June 30, 2034.

LRB103 37550 JAG 67674 b

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Legacy  
5 Tree Program Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Findings; purpose.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) Trees are essential to ecological, cultural, and  
9 economic life on Earth.

10 (2) Trees support species diversity, food webs,  
11 habitats, and numerous ecological processes, such as water  
12 and air purification.

13 (3) Trees assist in regulating climate and soil  
14 fertility.

15 (4) The State must commit to preserving and  
16 celebrating our legacy and heritage trees and must develop  
17 pathways for the public to advocate for the preservation  
18 of trees in communities.

19 (b) The General Assembly intends this Act to help create a  
20 Statewide legacy tree program to promote the identification,  
21 awareness, commemoration, and preservation of significant  
22 trees within the State.

1 Section 10. Legacy Tree Program Task Force.

2 (a) The Legacy Tree Program Task Force is created.

3 (b) The Legacy Tree Program Task Force shall establish  
4 recommendations to promote the identification, awareness,  
5 commemoration, and preservation of significant trees within  
6 the State.

7 (c) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) one representative of the Illinois Environmental  
9 Coalition, appointed by the Governor;

10 (2) one representative of the Morton Arboretum,  
11 appointed by the Governor;

12 (3) the director of the Illinois Environmental  
13 Protection Agency or a representative of their choosing;

14 (4) one representative of the Illinois Forestry  
15 Development Council, appointed by the Governor;

16 (5) one representative of the Shawnee National Forest,  
17 appointed by the Governor;

18 (6) one representative of the Southern Illinois  
19 University Department of Forestry, appointed by the  
20 Governor;

21 (7) one representative of the University of Illinois  
22 Urbana-Champaign Department of Forestry, appointed by the  
23 Governor;

24 (8) one representative of the Sierra Club, appointed  
25 by the Governor;

26 (9) one representative of the Chicago Urban Forestry

1 Board, appointed by the Governor;

2 (10) one representative of a forest preserve district  
3 in a county that is adjacent to Cook County, appointed by  
4 the Governor;

5 (11) one representative of a forest preserve district  
6 located south of Interstate 80, appointed by the Governor;

7 (12) one representative of the Illinois Park District  
8 Association, appointed by the Governor;

9 (13) one member of the House of Representatives,  
10 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

11 (14) one member of the House of Representatives,  
12 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
13 Representatives;

14 (15) one member of the Senate, appointed by the  
15 President of the Senate; and

16 (16) one member of the Senate, appointed by the  
17 Minority Leader of the Senate.

18 (d) Members of the Task Force shall serve without  
19 compensation.

20 (e) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide  
21 staff and administrative support services to the Task Force.

22 Section 15. Responsibilities. The Task Force shall  
23 establish recommendations for the following:

24 (1) criteria for definition of legacy tree and legacy  
25 tree standards;

1           (2) which State agency a Legacy Tree Program may be  
2 housed;

3           (3) procedures for nominating trees on public and  
4 private property;

5           (4) how legacy tree applications may be evaluated, how  
6 the trees themselves may be evaluated;

7           (5) a public awareness program, including website,  
8 digital, and print marketing;

9           (6) a procedure for withdrawing trees from program;

10          (7) procedures for legacy tree assessment;

11          (8) procedures for how a tree would be designated or  
12 honored physically;

13          (9) procedures for mapping trees on a searchable  
14 website; and

15          (10) procedures for delisting a healthy designated  
16 legacy tree.

17          Section 90. Repeal. This Act is repealed on June 30, 2034.