



**93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**State of Illinois**  
**2003 and 2004**

Introduced 2/4/2004, by Donne E. Trotter

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

New Act

Creates the Senior Environmental Corps Act and the 16-member Senior Environmental Corps Coordinating Council, subject to appropriation. Provides that the Department on Aging, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Aid, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency shall participate in the administration and implementation of the Corps, along with the Department of Natural Resources, within which the Corps shall be established. Provides the purpose of the Corps and the Council. Sets forth duties of the Department of Natural Resources in relation to the Corps. Provides guidelines for written agreements between the Department of Natural Resources and Corps volunteers.

LRB093 20740 RAS 46630 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

1 AN ACT in relation to environment.

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 Senior  
5 Environmental Corps Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Agency" means one of the agencies or organizations  
8 participating in the activities of the Senior Environmental  
9 Corps.

10 "Coordinator" means the person designated by the Director  
11 with the advice of the Council to administer the activities of  
12 the Senior Environmental Corps.

13 "Corps" means the Senior Environmental Corps.

14 "Council" means the Senior Environmental Corps  
15 Coordinating Council.

16 "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.

17 "Director" means the Director of Natural Resources or the  
18 Director's authorized representative.

19 "Representative" means the person who represents an agency  
20 on the Council and is responsible for the activities of the  
21 Senior Environmental Corps in his or her agency.

22 "Senior" means any person who is 55 years of age or older.

23 "Volunteer" means a person who is willing to work without  
24 expectation of salary or financial reward, and who chooses  
25 where he or she provides services and the type of services he  
26 or she provides.

27 Section 10. Senior Environmental Corps established.  
28 Subject to appropriation, the Senior Environmental Corps is  
29 created within the Department of Natural Resources. The  
30 Department on Aging, the Department of Human Services, the  
31 Department of Public Aid, the Department of Veterans Affairs,

1 and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency shall  
2 participate in the administration and implementation of the  
3 Corps.

4 Section 15. Purpose.

5 (a) The purpose of the Corps shall be to:

6 (1) Provide resources and a support structure to  
7 facilitate Corps activities and accomplish goals;

8 (2) Carry out professional and paraprofessional  
9 projects that focus on conservation, protection,  
10 rehabilitation, and enhancement of the State's natural,  
11 environmental, and recreational resources and projects  
12 that otherwise would not be implemented because of limited  
13 financial resources;

14 (3) Provide meaningful opportunities for senior  
15 volunteers to continue to use their professional training,  
16 lifelong skills, abilities, experience, and wisdom through  
17 participation in Corps projects;

18 (4) Assist agencies in carrying out statutory  
19 assignments with limited funding resources;

20 (5) Enhance community understanding of environmental  
21 issues through educational outreach; and

22 (6) Enhance the State's ability to provide needed  
23 public services in both urban and rural settings.

24 Section 20. Senior Environmental Corps Coordinating  
25 Council.

26 (a) The Department shall convene a Senior Environmental  
27 Corps Coordinating Council to meet as needed to establish and  
28 assess policies; define standards for projects; evaluate and  
29 select projects; develop recruitment, training and placement  
30 procedures; receive and review project status and completion  
31 reports; and provide for recognition of volunteer activity. The  
32 Council shall include 16 representatives, with 3  
33 representatives appointed by the Department on Aging, 3  
34 representatives appointed by the Department of Human Services,

1 3 representatives appointed by the Department of Public Aid, 3  
2 representatives appointed by the Department of Veterans  
3 Affairs, 3 representatives appointed by the Illinois  
4 Environmental Protection Agency, and 1 representative  
5 appointed by the Department of Natural Resources. The Council  
6 shall develop bylaws, policies, and procedures to govern its  
7 activities.

8 (b) The Council shall advise the Director on distribution  
9 of available funding for Corps activities.

10 Section 25. Duties.

11 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall:

12 (1) Provide a coordinator and staff support to the  
13 Council as needed;

14 (2) Provide support to the agencies for recruitment of  
15 volunteers;

16 (3) Develop a budget and allocate available funds with  
17 advice of the Council;

18 (4) Develop a written volunteer agreement;

19 (5) Collect and maintain project and volunteer  
20 records;

21 (6) Provide reports to the General Assembly and to the  
22 Council, as requested;

23 (7) Provide agency project managers and volunteers  
24 with orientation to the Corps program and training in the  
25 use of volunteers;

26 (8) Act as a liaison with and provide information to  
27 other states and jurisdictions on the Corps program and  
28 program activities;

29 (9) Appoint a representative to the Council;

30 (10) Develop project proposals;

31 (11) Administer project activities within the  
32 agencies;

33 (12) Develop appropriate procedures for the use of  
34 volunteers;

35 (13) Provide project orientation, technical training,

1 safety training, equipment, and supplies to carry out  
2 project activities;

3 (14) Maintain project records and provide project  
4 reports;

5 (15) Apply for and accept grants or contributions for  
6 Corps approved projects;

7 (16) With the approval of the Council, enter into  
8 memoranda of understanding and cooperative agreements with  
9 federal, State, and local agencies to carry out Corps  
10 approved projects; and

11 (17) Establish, by administrative rule, any rules and  
12 regulations necessary for implementing and administering  
13 the provisions of this Act.

14 (b) The Department shall not use Corps volunteers to  
15 displace currently employed workers.

16 Section 30. Volunteer agreement. All volunteer activity  
17 must be performed under the terms of a written master agreement  
18 approved by the Council and the Attorney General. As a minimum,  
19 the volunteer agreement must include a description of the work  
20 that the volunteer is to perform, including the standards of  
21 performance required, any expenses or other benefits to which  
22 the volunteer is entitled, such as mileage, lodging, uniforms  
23 or other clothing or supplies, training or other support to be  
24 provided to the volunteer by the particular agency, the  
25 duration of the agreement, and the terms under which the  
26 agreement may be cancelled.