



96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

HB1295

Introduced 2/18/2009, by Rep. John D. Cavaletto - Jim Watson -
David Reis - Ron Stephens

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Natural Resources Congress Act. Creates the Natural Resource Congress in order to protect, conserve, and appropriately use the natural resources of the State; to ensure that opportunities are available for the enjoyment of natural resources; and to enhance the quality of life of all of the present and future citizens of Illinois. Creates the Natural Resources Council, a committee comprised of the Directors of certain natural resource related State agencies. Requires the Natural Resources Congress to make certain recommendations to the Natural Resources Council. Effective immediately.

LRB096 09668 JDS 19829 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

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
5 Natural Resources Congress Act.

6 Section 5. Natural Resources Congress.

7 (a) There is established the Natural Resources Congress.
8 The purposes of the Congress are to propose and advocate
9 actions that can be taken by elected and appointed officials to
10 protect, conserve, and appropriately use the natural resources
11 of the State; to ensure that opportunities are available for
12 the enjoyment of natural resources; and to enhance the quality
13 of life of all of the present and future citizens of Illinois.

14 (b) The Natural Resources Congress shall recommend to the
15 Natural Resources Council long-range goals, strategies, and
16 programs that would balance the protection and use of the
17 natural resources of Illinois while protecting private
18 property rights and ensuring a sustainable, economically
19 viable agriculture and business climate.

20 (c) The Natural Resources Congress shall be composed of
21 representatives of organizations in Illinois, including but
22 not limited to not-for-profit entities, businesses, or other
23 entities, whose goals and actions are to provide consistency,

1 clarity, and coherence to present and future policies,
2 programs, and strategies affecting Illinois' water and land
3 resources. Members of the Congress shall serve without
4 compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

5 (d) The Natural Resources Congress shall establish
6 operating bylaws that ensure each member has a voting right on
7 the bylaws and on any recommendation that is forwarded by the
8 Natural Resources Congress to the Natural Resources Council. It
9 shall take a two-thirds vote of the members of the Natural
10 Resources Congress to approve the bylaws and recommendations to
11 the Natural Resources Council. A copy of the bylaws shall be
12 filed with the Natural Resources Council. Recommendations
13 submitted to the Natural Resources Council shall detail the
14 goal and impact of those recommendations on recreation, natural
15 resources, the State's economy, agriculture and business, and
16 property rights.

17 (e) The Department of Natural Resources shall organize,
18 convene, and provide staff support for the Natural Resources
19 Congress. Caucuses shall be held in each of the 5
20 administrative regions of the Department of Natural Resources.
21 Seventy delegates shall be elected to represent regional
22 interests at the Department of Natural Resources Congress, and
23 48 groups shall be invited by the Director of the Department of
24 Natural Resources to name a delegate to represent that group's
25 interests at the Natural Resources Congress, for a total of 118
26 delegates.

1 (f) The Natural Resources Congress shall convene, at a
2 minimum, once every 3 years after its initial meeting, and it
3 must submit its initial recommendations to the Natural
4 Resources Council by December 31, 2009.

5 Section 10. Natural Resources Council.

6 (a) There is created a Natural Resources Council comprised
7 of the Director or Secretary of each of the following State
8 agencies: the Department of Agriculture, the Department of
9 Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Natural
10 Resources, the Department of Transportation, the Illinois
11 Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Public
12 Health, and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

13 (b) The Council shall meet as necessary to receive and
14 evaluate recommendations from the Natural Resources Congress
15 and take appropriate action. Members of the Natural Resources
16 Council may provide in-kind services to the Natural Resources
17 Congress.

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law.