



Rep. Lawrence "Larry" Walsh, Jr.

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10400HB5165ham002

LRB104 20238 BDA 36453 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5165

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 5165, AS AMENDED,
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the
4 following:

5 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
6 Public Waters Access Task Force Act.

7 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds the
8 following:

9 (1) Illinois' rivers provide significant ecological,
10 recreational, and economic benefits.

11 (2) Access to rivers for boating, paddling, angling,
12 and other outdoor recreation is essential to supporting
13 tourism, conservation, and public enjoyment of natural
14 resources.

15 (3) Many communities across the State face barriers to
16 safe, legal, and adequate river access.

1 (4) A coordinated, statewide evaluation is necessary
2 to identify opportunities to expand and improve river
3 access while balancing conservation, landowner interests,
4 and public safety.

5 Section 10. Public Waters Access Task Force; creation.

6 (a) The Public Waters Access Task Force is created to
7 study and make recommendations for increasing and improving
8 public access to rivers for boaters, paddlers, and anglers
9 throughout the State.

10 (b) The Task Force shall consist of 9 members, appointed
11 as follows:

12 (1) one member appointed by the President of the
13 Senate;

14 (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
15 Senate;

16 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House
17 of Representatives;

18 (4) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
19 House of Representatives;

20 (5) four members representing nongovernmental
21 organizations, appointed by the Director of Natural
22 Resources, as follows:

23 (A) three members representing organizations
24 concerning outdoor recreation interests; and

25 (B) one member representing an organization

1 concerning farm interests; and

2 (6) one member from the Department of Natural
3 Resources, appointed by the Director of Natural Resources.

4 (c) The Task Force shall be co-chaired by:

5 (1) the member appointed under paragraph (6) of
6 subsection (b); and

7 (2) one of the members appointed under paragraph (5)
8 of subsection (b), selected by a majority vote of the
9 members appointed under paragraph (5) of subsection (b).

10 Section 15. Duties of the Task Force. The Task Force
11 shall:

12 (1) evaluate current public access to rivers across
13 Illinois, including boat launches, public rights-of-way,
14 easements, and informal access points;

15 (2) identify barriers to river access, including
16 regulatory, physical, financial, and land-use challenges;

17 (3) consult with local governments, conservation
18 groups, landowners, recreational users, and other
19 stakeholders;

20 (4) review best practices from other states for
21 expanding river access while protecting natural resources
22 and respecting private property rights; and

23 (5) develop recommendations to increase and improve
24 river access, including potential legislative, regulatory,
25 and funding strategies.

1 Section 20. Support. The Department of Natural Resources
2 shall provide administrative, technical, and logistical
3 support to the Task Force.

4 Section 25. Report; repeal.

5 (a) The Task Force shall submit a final report containing
6 its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
7 General Assembly no later than one year after the effective
8 date of this Act.

9 (b) Upon submission of the final report, the Task Force is
10 dissolved.

11 (c) This Act is repealed 2 years after the effective date
12 of this Act.

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
14 becoming law."