



Rep. Lawrence "Larry" Walsh, Jr.

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10400HB5165ham003

LRB104 20238 BDA 36873 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 and public enjoyment of natural resources.

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

16 (4) A coordinated, statewide evaluation is necessary

1 to identify opportunities to expand and improve river  
2 access while balancing conservation, landowner interests,  
3 and public safety.

4 (5) A significant number of waterways in Illinois are  
5 privately owned and riparian rights must be protected and  
6 respected.

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

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

12 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

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

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

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

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

21 (5) eight members appointed by the Director of Natural  
22 Resources, as follows:

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

25 (B) one member from a statewide organization

1 representing cattle farmers in Illinois;

2 (C) one member who is a landowner in Illinois  
3 whose property includes a river;

4 (D) one member from a statewide organization  
5 representing real estate brokers;

6 (E) one member from the State's largest general  
7 agriculture association; and

8 (F) one member from an association that represents  
9 attorneys statewide; and

10 (6) one member from the Department of Natural  
11 Resources designated by the Director of Natural Resources.

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

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

15 (2) one of the members appointed under paragraph (5)  
16 of subsection (b), selected by a majority vote of the  
17 members appointed under paragraph (5) of subsection (b).

18 Section 15. Duties of the Task Force. The Task Force  
19 shall:

20 (1) evaluate current public access to rivers across  
21 Illinois, including boat launches, public rights-of-way,  
22 private ownership, easements, and informal access points;

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

25 (3) consult with local governments, conservation

1 groups, landowners, recreational users, and other  
2 stakeholders;

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

6 (5) develop recommendations to increase and improve  
7 river access, including potential legislative, regulatory,  
8 and funding strategies.

9 Section 20. Support. The Department of Natural Resources  
10 shall provide administrative, technical, and logistical  
11 support to the Task Force.

12 Section 25. Report; repeal.

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

17 (b) Upon submission of the final report, the Task Force is  
18 dissolved.

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

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
22 becoming law."