

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. Findings. The State of Illinois finds that:

5 (1) rapid land development in Illinois has led to the loss
6 of forestlands, farmlands, wildlife habitats, biodiversity,
7 outstanding natural areas, beaches, and public areas for
8 outdoor recreation and has impacted the health of the State's
9 lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands, all of which impacts the
10 quality of life of the State's current and future citizens and
11 may jeopardize the well-being of the State's environment and
12 economy if not addressed appropriately;

13 (2) this same rapid land development has also led to the
14 loss of historical and archaeological sites that embody the
15 heritage of the State;

16 (3) this same rapid land development is occurring across
17 the United States and across the world;

18 (4) scientists have documented this rapid loss of natural
19 area and wildlife, including the loss of 1,500,000 acres of
20 natural area in the United States per year; the loss of
21 2,900,000,000, or twenty-nine percent of, North American birds
22 since 1970; threats to approximately 12,000 plant and animal
23 species in the United States, all of which are in need of
24 proactive conservation efforts; and the loss of one-half of

1 freshwater and saltwater wetlands in the contiguous
2 forty-eight states;

3 (5) scientists have recommended conserving and protecting
4 thirty percent of the land and thirty percent of the ocean in
5 each country by 2030 in order to address this deterioration of
6 natural systems, loss of biodiversity, and rapid land
7 development;

8 (6) national leaders have introduced measures to commit
9 the United States to protecting thirty percent of its lands
10 and oceans by 2030; and

11 (7) in order to support national efforts and provide state
12 leadership to address the deterioration of natural systems,
13 loss of biodiversity, and rapid land development, Illinois
14 must establish a bold goal for the amount of land to be
15 protected by the year 2030.

16 Section 5. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
17 Illinois Thirty-by-Thirty Conservation Task Force Act.

18 Section 10. Thirty-by-Thirty Task Force. There is hereby
19 created the Illinois Thirty-By-Thirty Conservation Task Force.
20 The Task Force shall have 23 members, comprised as follows:

21 (1) the Director of Natural Resources or the Director's
22 designee, who shall serve as chairperson;

23 (2) two members from the House of Representatives,
24 appointed one each by the Speaker of the House and the House

1 Minority Leader;

2 (3) two members of the Senate, appointed one each by the
3 President of the Senate and the Senate Minority Leader;

4 (4) one member appointed by the Director or the Director's
5 designee of the Department of Agriculture;

6 (5) one member appointed by the Director or the Director's
7 designee of The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency;

8 (6) one member appointed by the Director or the Director's
9 designee of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic
10 Opportunity;

11 (7) one member appointed by the Director or the Director's
12 designee of the Illinois Department of Transportation;

13 (8) one environmentalist appointed by the Department of
14 Natural Resources;

15 (9) one member from a State agriculture association
16 appointed by the chairperson;

17 (10) two environmental science teachers appointed by the
18 chairperson;

19 (11) four environmental science students appointed by the
20 chairperson;

21 (12) three members of a private sector environmental
22 organization appointed by the chairperson;

23 (13) one higher education professional working with crop
24 science, appointed by the chairperson;

25 (14) one chemical fertilizer professional appointed by
26 chairperson;

- 1 (15) one seed producer appointed by the chairperson; and
2 (16) one representative of a statewide outdoor sportsman
3 organization appointed by the chairperson.

4 Section 15. Duties of the Task Force. The Task Force shall
5 hold listening sessions regarding ways in which Illinois can
6 protect 30% of its land and water resources by 2030. The Task
7 Force shall hold a minimum of three separate listening
8 sessions in geographically distinct areas of the State.

9 (1) The meetings should at a minimum seek to explore the
10 following focus areas:

11 (A) identify resources that the State has and how they
12 are being utilized to protect land and water resources;

13 (B) identify tools, resources, and incentives for
14 landowners and the private sector to restore degraded
15 natural areas and to manage their resources sustainably;

16 (C) identify financial resources from the private
17 sector, philanthropy, and public sources to expand
18 protections and to help manage lands and waters for
19 conservation;

20 (D) the ability of the State to manage more public
21 lands for the benefit of future generations; and

22 (E) strategies to conserve and protect 30% of
23 Illinois' land and water by 2030.

24 (2) The Task Force shall observe the sovereignty of tribal
25 nations through meaningful consultation with indigenous tribal

1 leaders, and shall help indigenous tribal communities fulfill
2 their visions and priorities for the stewardship of natural,
3 cultural, and historic resources.

4 (3) The Task Force members shall serve without
5 compensation.

6 Section 20. Administration. The Department of Natural
7 Resources shall provide administrative and other support to
8 the Task Force.

9 Section 25. Report. The Task Force shall prepare a report
10 that summarizes the information gathered during the listening
11 sessions and submit the report to the Governor and General
12 Assembly on or before July 1, 2022.

13 Section 30. Repeal. The Task Force is dissolved, and this
14 Act is repealed on July 1, 2023.

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
16 becoming law.