

# SB2061



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB2061

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Craig Wilcox

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Act. Establishes the Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry within the Department of Natural Resources. Provides that the Governor shall appoint the Director of the Office. Provides that the Director shall appoint an Outdoor Recreation Industry Advisory Council to provide guidance to the Director in carrying out the purposes of the Office. Adds provisions governing the composition, duties, and operation of the Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry.

LRB102 16573 KMF 21970 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning outdoor recreation.

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 Office  
5 of Outdoor Recreation Industry Act.

6 Section 5. Purposes. The General Assembly finds and  
7 declares that:

8 (1) The outdoor recreation industry does more than bring  
9 joy to millions of Americans. It helps drive our economy. In  
10 2019, the Bureau of Economic Analysis released national  
11 statistics that demonstrate the economic output of outdoor  
12 recreation to be \$778 billion, surpassing industries such as  
13 mining, utilities, farming and ranching, and chemical products  
14 manufacturing.

15 (2) According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the  
16 outdoor recreation industry is growing rapidly, eclipsing the  
17 overall GDP increase.

18 (3) Outdoor recreation generates millions of high-quality,  
19 high-paying jobs from coast to coast and across a wide variety  
20 of industries, ranging from manufacturing to retail to  
21 tourism. These jobs play a critical role in the economic  
22 health of local and state economies.

23 (4) The Bureau of Economic Analysis's 2019 State-level

1 data show that outdoor recreation in Illinois contributes  
2 \$15.6 Billion of Value Added (GDP) to the State's economy and  
3 directly supports 165,565 jobs.

4 (5) Illinois' protected public lands comprise less than  
5 10% of the State. The State of Illinois manages 309 State parks  
6 and recreational sites on more than 475,000 acres of land.

7 (6) The public spaces for outdoor recreation are drivers  
8 of tourism to Illinois.

9 (7) Increasing access to the outdoors and participation in  
10 outdoor recreation programs and services of the outdoor  
11 recreation economy are critical to improving the health and  
12 wellness of all residents, maintaining residents' quality of  
13 life, and developing future environmental stewards and  
14 conservationists to build on our public lands heritage.

15 (8) Promoting and enhancing Illinois' outdoor recreation  
16 economy will benefit all residents and can particularly  
17 support rural communities that are gateways to outdoor  
18 recreation locations and opportunities.

19 (9) Seventeen states have already created an Office of  
20 Outdoor Recreation Industry to increase investment in and  
21 support the booming outdoor recreation economy in their  
22 respective states.

23 Section 10. Definition. In this Act, "outdoor recreation"  
24 means a pursuit that occurs in a natural environment or  
25 physical landscape, including various active and passive,

1 motorized and nonmotorized sports and activities.

2 Section 15. Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry;  
3 Director; appointment; Outdoor Recreation Industry Advisory  
4 Council.

5 (a) There is created within the Department of Natural  
6 Resources the Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry.

7 (b) The Governor shall appoint a Director of the Office.

8 (c) The Director shall report to the Director of Natural  
9 Resources and may appoint staff.

10 (d) The Director shall assure that the duties of the  
11 Office provided in Section 20 are fulfilled.

12 (e) The Director shall appoint an Outdoor Recreation  
13 Industry Advisory Council to provide guidance to the Director  
14 in carrying out the purposes of the Office. The Council shall  
15 consist of no more than 20 members and the Director shall  
16 publish a public notice soliciting applicants for Council  
17 positions.

18 (f) Council members shall represent interests that conduct  
19 business in this State and that share the goal of promoting the  
20 growth of the outdoor recreation economy and outdoor  
21 recreation activities, not to exclude nonprofit organizations.

22 (g) Representation on the Council shall include a variety  
23 of outdoor recreation opportunities and industries that  
24 contribute to this State's economy, as determined by the  
25 Director. For purposes of this Section, "outdoor recreation

1 opportunities and industries" includes, but is not limited to:  
2 archery; hunting; fishing; boating; horseback riding; hiking,  
3 running, and other fitness activities; bicycling; winter and  
4 water sports and recreation; recreation vehicles and  
5 campgrounds; motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and other  
6 motorized recreation; trails and other outdoor recreation  
7 infrastructure; guides, outfitters, and other outdoor  
8 businesses that depend upon public lands; lodging and other  
9 visitor services; conservation and stewardship; real estate  
10 and community development; public health and wellness;  
11 education and workforce training; and financial and digital  
12 institutions and services.

13 Section 20. Duties of the Office. The Office of Outdoor  
14 Recreation Industry shall:

15 (1) increase outdoor recreation-based economic  
16 development, tourism and ecotourism in the State by attracting  
17 outdoor recreation industries to this State; developing the  
18 growth of new business opportunities within this State; and  
19 marketing, advertising and securing media opportunities that  
20 reflect the opportunities for outdoor recreation in this  
21 State;

22 (2) promote the growth of the outdoor recreation economy  
23 in this State by increasing and promoting access to the  
24 outdoors, especially in under-parked or underrepresented or  
25 urban and rural communities, or both, and providing

1 opportunities for stewardship and conservation of natural  
2 resources;

3 (3) coordinate with federal and State agencies and local  
4 government entities in the State on matters related to the  
5 purposes described in this Act when the Director determines  
6 the coordination necessary or beneficial;

7 (4) recommend to the Governor policies and initiatives to  
8 enhance recreational amenities and experiences in the State,  
9 help implement those policies and initiatives, and report on  
10 the impacts of those policies and initiatives;

11 (5) develop or support, or both, development of data  
12 regarding the impacts of outdoor recreation in this State  
13 while ensuring national data are used as a benchmark factor in  
14 agency decision making;

15 (6) promote the health and social benefits of outdoor  
16 recreation;

17 (7) advocate on behalf of the State for federal funding  
18 and participation in federal programs;

19 (8) create and maintain a statewide list of lands to be  
20 conserved, enhanced, or publicized for outdoor recreation; and

21 (9) apply for government or private grants to benefit the  
22 purposes outlined in this Act.