

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 Legacy
5 Tree Program Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Findings; purpose.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) Trees are essential to ecological, cultural, and
9 economic life on Earth.

10 (2) Trees support species diversity, food webs,
11 habitats, and numerous ecological processes, such as water
12 and air purification.

13 (3) Trees assist in regulating climate and soil
14 fertility.

15 (4) The State must commit to preserving and
16 celebrating our legacy and heritage trees and must develop
17 pathways for the public to advocate for the preservation
18 of trees in communities.

19 (b) The General Assembly intends this Act to help create a
20 Statewide legacy tree program to promote the identification,
21 awareness, commemoration, and preservation of significant
22 trees within the State.

1 Section 10. Legacy Tree Program Task Force.

2 (a) The Legacy Tree Program Task Force is created, shall
3 meet on a quarterly basis for 4 years after the effective date
4 of this Act, and shall, by no later than June 30, 2028, submit
5 to the General Assembly, in accordance with Section 3.1 of the
6 General Assembly Organization Act, a report that contains the
7 final recommendations developed under subsection (b).

8 (b) The Legacy Tree Program Task Force shall establish
9 recommendations for the creation of a statewide legacy tree
10 recognition program to promote the identification, awareness,
11 commemoration, and preservation of significant trees in the
12 State.

13 (c) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

14 (1) one representative of the Illinois Environmental
15 Council, appointed by the Governor;

16 (2) one representative of the Morton Arboretum,
17 appointed by the Governor;

18 (3) the director of the Illinois Environmental
19 Protection Agency or a representative of their choosing;

20 (4) one representative of the Illinois Forestry
21 Development Council, appointed by the Governor;

22 (5) one representative of the Shawnee National Forest,
23 appointed by the Governor;

24 (6) one representative of the Southern Illinois
25 University Department of Forestry, appointed by the
26 Governor;

1 (7) one representative of the University of Illinois
2 Extension forestry program, appointed by the Governor;

3 (8) one representative of an association that
4 represents Illinois arborists, appointed by the Governor;

5 (9) two representatives of the Department of Natural
6 Resources, appointed by the Governor;

7 (10) one representative of the Sierra Club, appointed
8 by the Governor;

9 (11) one representative of the Chicago Urban Forestry
10 Board, appointed by the Governor;

11 (12) one representative of a forest preserve district
12 in a county that is adjacent to Cook County, appointed by
13 the Governor;

14 (13) one representative of a forest preserve district
15 located south of Interstate 80, appointed by the Governor;

16 (14) one representative of the Illinois Park District
17 Association, appointed by the Governor;

18 (15) one member of the House of Representatives,
19 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

20 (16) one member of the House of Representatives,
21 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
22 Representatives;

23 (17) one member of the Senate, appointed by the
24 President of the Senate; and

25 (18) one member of the Senate, appointed by the
26 Minority Leader of the Senate.

1 (d) Members of the Task Force shall serve without
2 compensation.

3 (e) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide
4 staff and administrative support services to the Task Force
5 and serve as the lead and chair agency of the Task Force.

6 Section 15. Responsibilities. The Task Force shall
7 establish recommendations for the following:

8 (1) criteria for a definition of legacy tree and
9 legacy tree standards that can be used on a variety of
10 trees;

11 (2) criteria for which the historical and cultural
12 significance of a tree could be measured;

13 (3) procedures for nominating trees on public and
14 private property;

15 (4) exploring partnership opportunities with units of
16 local government for oversight of the legacy tree program
17 and participation in the program;

18 (5) creating a public awareness program, including
19 digital media, a website, a legacy tree tool kit and
20 educational materials to be made available by the
21 Department of Natural Resources for use by units of local
22 government;

23 (6) exploring funding sources for the operation and
24 maintenance of the statewide legacy tree program,
25 including grant funding opportunities to facilitate

- 1 participation in the program by units of local government;
- 2 (7) procedures for withdrawing trees from program;
- 3 (8) procedures for legacy tree assessment;
- 4 (9) procedures for how a tree would be designated or
- 5 honored physically;
- 6 (10) procedures for mapping trees on a searchable
- 7 website; and
- 8 (11) procedures for delisting a healthy designated
- 9 legacy tree.

10 Section 90. Repeal. This Act is repealed on June 30, 2034.