

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Natural Resources  
5 (Conservation) Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois  
6 is amended by changing Section 805-535 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 805/805-535) (was 20 ILCS 805/63b2.2)

8 Sec. 805-535. Conservation Police Officers. In addition to  
9 the arrest powers prescribed by law, Conservation Police  
10 Officers are conservators of the peace and as such have all  
11 powers possessed by policemen, except that they may exercise  
12 those powers anywhere in this State. Conservation Police  
13 Officers acting under the authority of this Section are  
14 considered employees of the Department and are subject to its  
15 direction, benefits, and legal protection.

16 Any person hired by the Department of Natural Resources  
17 after July 1, 2001 for a sworn law enforcement position or  
18 position that has arrest authority must meet the following  
19 minimum professional standards:

20 (1) At the time of hire, the person must hold (i) a  
21 2-year degree and 3 consecutive years of experience as a  
22 police officer with the same law enforcement agency or (ii)  
23 a 4-year degree.

1           (2) The person must possess the skill level and  
2 demonstrate the ability to swim at a competency level  
3 approved by the Department in an administrative rule. The  
4 Department's administrative rule must require the person  
5 to use techniques established by the American Red Cross.

6           (3) The person must successfully obtain certification  
7 as a police officer under the standards in effect at that  
8 time unless that person already holds that certification  
9 and must also successfully complete the Conservation  
10 Police Academy training program, consisting of not less  
11 than 400 hours of training, within one year of hire.

12           Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, all persons  
13 who either (i) have been honorably discharged and who have been  
14 awarded a Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal,  
15 Korean Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq  
16 Campaign Medal, or Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
17 by the United States Armed Forces or (ii) are active members of  
18 the Illinois National Guard or a reserve component of the  
19 United States Armed Forces and who have been awarded a  
20 Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Korean  
21 Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq  
22 Campaign Medal, or Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
23 as a result of honorable service during deployment on active  
24 duty, are deemed to have met the collegiate educational  
25 requirements for a sworn law enforcement position or position  
26 that has arrest authority.

1           The Department of Natural Resources must adopt an  
2 administrative rule listing those disciplines that qualify as  
3 directly related areas of study and must also adopt, by  
4 listing, the American Red Cross standards and testing points  
5 for a skill level equivalent to an intermediate level swimmer.  
6 (Source: P.A. 96-972, eff. 7-2-10.)

7           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
8 becoming law.