

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 Park District Aquarium and Museum Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 1 as follows:

6 (70 ILCS 1290/1) (from Ch. 105, par. 326)

7 Sec. 1. Erect, operate, and maintain aquariums and museums.  
8 The corporate authorities of cities and park districts having  
9 ~~the~~ control or supervision over ~~of~~ any public park or parks,  
10 including parks located on formerly submerged land, are hereby  
11 authorized to purchase, erect, and maintain within any such  
12 public park or parks ~~under the control or supervision of such~~  
13 ~~corporate authorities,~~ edifices to be used as aquariums or as  
14 museums of art, industry, science, or natural or other history,  
15 including presidential libraries, centers, and museums, such  
16 aquariums and museums consisting of all facilities for their  
17 collections, exhibitions, programming, and associated  
18 initiatives, or to permit the directors or trustees of any  
19 corporation or society organized for the construction or  
20 maintenance and operation of an aquarium or museum as  
21 hereinabove described to erect, enlarge, ornament, build,  
22 rebuild, rehabilitate, improve, maintain, and operate its  
23 aquarium or museum ~~or museums~~ within any public park now or

1 hereafter under the control or supervision of any city or park  
2 district, and to contract with any such directors or trustees  
3 of any such aquarium or ~~7~~ museum ~~or museums~~ relative to the  
4 erection, enlargement, ornamentation, building, rebuilding,  
5 rehabilitation, improvement, maintenance, ownership, and  
6 operation of such aquarium or museum. Notwithstanding the  
7 previous sentence, a city or park district may enter into a  
8 lease for an initial term not to exceed 99 years, subject to  
9 renewal, allowing a corporation or society as hereinabove  
10 described to erect, enlarge, ornament, build, rebuild,  
11 rehabilitate, improve, maintain, and operate its aquarium or  
12 museum, together with grounds immediately adjacent to such  
13 aquarium or museum, and to use, possess, and occupy grounds  
14 surrounding such aquarium or museum as hereinabove described  
15 for the purpose of beautifying and maintaining such grounds in  
16 a manner consistent with the aquarium or museum's purpose, and  
17 on the conditions that (1) the public is allowed access to such  
18 grounds in a manner consistent with its access to other public  
19 parks, and (2) the city or park district retains a reversionary  
20 interest in any improvements made by the corporation or society  
21 on the grounds, including the aquarium or museum itself, that  
22 matures upon the expiration or lawful termination of the lease.  
23 It is hereby reaffirmed and found that the aquariums and  
24 museums as described in this Section, and their collections,  
25 exhibitions, programming, and associated initiatives, serve  
26 valuable public purposes, including, but not limited to,

1 furthering human knowledge and understanding, educating and  
2 inspiring the public, and expanding recreational and cultural  
3 resources and opportunities ~~and operation thereof~~. Any city or  
4 park district may charge, or permit such an aquarium or museum  
5 to charge, an admission fee. Any such aquarium or museum,  
6 however, shall be open without charge, when accompanied by a  
7 teacher, to the children in actual attendance upon grades  
8 kindergarten through twelve in any of the schools in this State  
9 at all times. In addition, any ~~Any~~ such aquarium or museum,  
10 ~~however,~~ must be open to persons who reside in this State  
11 without charge for a period equivalent to 52 days, at least 6  
12 of which must be during the period from June through August,  
13 each year. Notwithstanding said provisions, charges may be made  
14 at any time for special services and for admission to special  
15 facilities within any aquarium or museum for the education,  
16 entertainment, or convenience of visitors. The proceeds of such  
17 admission fees and charges for special services and special  
18 facilities shall be devoted exclusively to the purposes for  
19 which the tax authorized by Section 2 hereof may be used. If  
20 any owner or owners of any lands or lots abutting or fronting  
21 on any such public park, or adjacent thereto, have any private  
22 right, easement, interest or property in such public park  
23 appurtenant to their lands or lots or otherwise, which would be  
24 interfered with by the erection and maintenance of any aquarium  
25 or museum as hereinbefore provided, or any right to have such  
26 public park remain open or vacant and free from buildings, the

1 corporate authorities of the city or park district having  
2 control of such park, may condemn the same in the manner  
3 prescribed for the exercise of the right of eminent domain  
4 under the Eminent Domain Act. The changes made to this Section  
5 by this amendatory Act of the 99th General Assembly are  
6 declaratory of existing law and shall not be construed as a new  
7 enactment.

8 (Source: P.A. 97-187, eff. 7-22-11.)