

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 5. The Illinois Veteran, Youth, and Young Adult  
5 Conservation Jobs Act is amended by changing Sections 2, 4, 6,  
6 and 9 and by adding Section 8.5 as follows:

7 (525 ILCS 50/2) (from Ch. 48, par. 2552)

8 Sec. 2. Declaration of Intent. The General Assembly finds  
9 that the level of unemployment among veterans, the youths of  
10 this State, particularly those age 14 through 18, and young  
11 adults, age 18 through 25, is unsatisfactory. This situation is  
12 not conducive to the development of veterans and the youth and  
13 young adults of Illinois as the future of the State. The  
14 General Assembly further finds that the availability of  
15 conservation and recreational programs for veterans, youth,  
16 and young adults in parks and recreational facilities and other  
17 lands operated by the State, by units of local government, and  
18 by local not-for-profit entities is severely limited. The  
19 General Assembly therefore creates the Illinois Veteran,  
20 Youth, and Young Adult Conservation Jobs Act to establish (a)  
21 the Illinois Veteran Conservation Corps and the Illinois Young  
22 Adult Conservation Corps to provide year-round employment for  
23 veterans and young adults of this State for the purpose of

1 conservation, rehabilitation, protection and enhancement of  
2 the State's public land and (b) the Illinois Veteran Recreation  
3 Corps, ~~and~~ the Illinois Youth Recreation Corps, and the  
4 Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps to provide employment for  
5 the veterans, ~~and~~ youth, and young adults of this State for the  
6 purpose of administering and operating conservation or  
7 recreational programs operated by units of local government or  
8 local not-for-profit entities at conservation and open spaces,  
9 parks, or recreational facilities or other similar facilities  
10 or locations.

11 (Source: P.A. 97-738, eff. 7-5-12.)

12 (525 ILCS 50/4) (from Ch. 48, par. 2554)

13 Sec. 4. Definition of Terms. For the purposes of this Act:

14 (a) "Department" means the Department of Natural  
15 Resources.

16 (b) "Director" means the Director of Natural Resources.

17 (c) "Local sponsor" means any unit of local government or  
18 not-for-profit entity that can make available for a ~~summer~~  
19 conservation or recreation program park lands, conservation or  
20 recreational lands or facilities, equipment, materials,  
21 administration, supervisory personnel, etc.

22 (d) "Managing supervisor" means an enrollee in the Illinois  
23 Veteran Recreation Corps, ~~or~~ the Illinois Youth Recreation  
24 Corps, or the Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps who is  
25 selected by the local sponsor to supervise the activities of

1 the veterans, ~~or~~ youth, or young adults employee enrollees  
2 working on the conservation or recreation project. A managing  
3 supervisor in the Illinois Youth Recreation Corps may be 19  
4 years of age or older.

5 (e) "Veteran" means an Illinois resident who has served or  
6 is currently serving as a member of the United States Armed  
7 Forces, a member of the Illinois National Guard, or a member of  
8 a Reserve Component of the United States Armed Forces.

9 (Source: P.A. 97-738, eff. 7-5-12; 98-463, eff. 8-16-13.)

10 (525 ILCS 50/6) (from Ch. 48, par. 2556)

11 Sec. 6. Funding. Funding for the Illinois Veteran, Youth,  
12 and Young Adult Conservation Jobs Act shall be from any State  
13 or federal funds or grants or other funding so received by the  
14 Department and any matching funds required by the Department  
15 from local sponsors that choose to participate in the Illinois  
16 Veteran Recreation Corps, ~~or~~ the Illinois Youth Recreation  
17 Corps, or the Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps programs.

18 (Source: P.A. 97-738, eff. 7-5-12.)

19 (525 ILCS 50/8.5 new)

20 Sec. 8.5. Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps.

21 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Illinois Young Adult  
22 Recreation Corps is established for the purpose of making  
23 grants to local sponsors to provide wages to young adults  
24 operating and instructing in conservation or recreational

1 programs. The programs shall provide conservation or  
2 recreational opportunities and shall include, but are not  
3 limited to, the coordination and teaching of natural resource  
4 conservation and management, physical activities, or learning  
5 activities directly related to natural resource conservation  
6 management or recreation. Persons employed through the  
7 Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps shall not perform work in  
8 State parks. The programs may charge user fees, but the fees  
9 shall be designed to promote as much community involvement as  
10 possible, as determined by the Department.

11 (b) Local sponsors who can provide necessary facilities,  
12 materials, and management for conservation or recreational  
13 activities within the community may apply to the Department for  
14 a grant under this Act for the purpose of hiring managing  
15 supervisors, as necessary, and eligible young adults for  
16 conservation or recreational programs. Applications shall be  
17 evaluated on the basis of program content, location, need,  
18 local commitment of resources, and consistency with the  
19 purposes of this Act.

20 (c) The Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps shall be  
21 limited to citizens of this State who, at the time of  
22 enrollment, are unemployed, are 18 through 25 years of age, and  
23 who have skills that can be used in the conservation or  
24 recreational program.

25 The ratio of young adult employee enrollees to managing  
26 supervisors shall not be less than 10 to 1 for any local

1 sponsor with a total number of young adult employee enrollees  
2 of 10 or more. Any local sponsor program with a total number of  
3 young adult employee enrollees of less than 10 shall be limited  
4 to one managing supervisor.

5 The local sponsors shall make public notification of the  
6 availability of jobs for eligible young adults in the Illinois  
7 Young Adult Recreation Corps by the means of newspapers,  
8 electronic media, educational facilities, units of local  
9 government, and Department of Employment Security offices.  
10 Application for employment shall be made directly to the local  
11 sponsor.

12 The Department shall adopt reasonable rules pertaining to  
13 the administration of the Illinois Young Adult Recreation  
14 Corps. These rules shall prohibit the use of Illinois Young  
15 Adult Recreation Corps employees in a manner that displaces or  
16 replaces regular employees and shall prohibit any activity that  
17 impairs or is inconsistent with an existing collective  
18 bargaining agreement or with the collective bargaining rights  
19 of employees. Illinois Young Adult Recreation Corps employees  
20 shall not be assigned work within the scope of bargaining unit  
21 work without the written consent of the exclusive bargaining  
22 representative.

23 (d) The enrollment period for any successful applicant of  
24 the program shall not be longer than 12 months. Once enrolled  
25 in the program, each enrollee shall receive a reasonable wage  
26 as set by the Department and shall work hours as required by

1 the conservation or recreation program as determined by the  
2 Department, except that an enrollee working as a managing  
3 supervisor shall receive a higher wage than an enrollee working  
4 in any other capacity on the conservation or recreation  
5 program. Enrollees shall be employees of the local sponsor and  
6 not contractual hires for the purpose of employment taxes,  
7 except that enrollees shall not be classified as employees of  
8 this State or the local sponsor for purposes of contributions  
9 to the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois or any  
10 other public employee retirement system.

11 (525 ILCS 50/9)

12 Sec. 9. Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps. With respect to  
13 the Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps:

14 (a) Purpose. The Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps is  
15 established for the purpose of making grants to local sponsors  
16 to provide wages to veterans of any age operating and  
17 instructing in conservation or recreational programs. Such  
18 programs shall provide conservation or recreational  
19 opportunities and shall include, but are not limited to, the  
20 coordination and teaching of natural resource conservation and  
21 management, physical activities, or learning activities  
22 directly related to natural resource conservation management  
23 or recreation. Such programs may charge user fees, but such  
24 fees shall be designed to promote as much community involvement  
25 as possible, as determined by the Department.

1 (b) Application. Local sponsors who can provide necessary  
2 facilities, materials, and management for ~~summer~~ conservation  
3 or recreational activities within the community and who desire  
4 a grant under this Act for the purpose of hiring managing  
5 supervisors as necessary and eligible veterans for such  
6 conservation or recreational programs may make application to  
7 the Department. Applications shall be evaluated on the basis of  
8 program content, location, need, local commitment of  
9 resources, and consistency with the purposes of this Act.

10 (c) Enrollment. The Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps  
11 shall be limited to citizens of this State who at the time of  
12 enrollment are veterans of any age and are unemployed and who  
13 have skills that can be utilized in the ~~summer~~ conservation or  
14 recreational program. Preference may be given to veterans with  
15 a disability.

16 The ratio of veterans employee enrollees to a managing  
17 supervisor must not be less than 10 to 1 for any local sponsor  
18 with a total number of veterans employee enrollees of 10 or  
19 more. Any local sponsor program with a total number of veteran  
20 employee enrollees of less than 10 must be limited to one  
21 managing supervisor. Veterans who are unemployed shall be given  
22 preference for employment as managing supervisors.

23 The local sponsors shall make public notification of the  
24 availability of jobs for eligible veterans in the Illinois  
25 Veteran Recreation Corps by the means of newspapers, electronic  
26 media, educational facilities, units of local government, and

1 Department of Employment Security offices. Application for  
2 employment shall be made directly to the local sponsor.

3 The Department shall adopt reasonable rules pertaining to  
4 the administration of the Illinois Veteran Recreation Corps.

5 (d) Terms of employment. The enrollment period for any  
6 successful applicant of the program shall not be longer than 12  
7 ~~6~~ total months. Once enrolled in the program, each enrollee  
8 shall receive a reasonable wage as set by the Department and  
9 shall work hours as required by the conservation or recreation  
10 program but not in excess of a maximum number of hours as  
11 determined by the Department, except that an enrollee working  
12 as a managing supervisor shall receive a higher wage than an  
13 enrollee working in any other capacity on the conservation or  
14 recreation program. Enrollees shall be employees of the local  
15 sponsor and not contractual hires for the purpose of employment  
16 taxes, except that enrollees shall not be classified as  
17 employees of the State or the local sponsor for purposes of  
18 contributions to the State Employees' Retirement System of  
19 Illinois or any other public employee retirement system.

20 (Source: P.A. 97-738, eff. 7-5-12; 98-463, eff. 8-16-13.)

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
22 becoming law.