



Sen. Karina Villa

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10300HB0255sam001

LRB103 03779 BDA 73402 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 255

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 255 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Youth  
5 and Young Adult Conservation Education Act.

6 Section 5. Declaration of intent. The General Assembly  
7 finds that youth, representing all segments of society,  
8 benefit from education and employment in the healthful outdoor  
9 atmosphere of the State's park systems, recreational  
10 facilities, and other public land and water areas and, through  
11 those education and employment opportunities, will develop,  
12 enhance, and maintain the natural resources of the State of  
13 Illinois while gaining an understanding and appreciation of  
14 the State's environment and heritage. The General Assembly,  
15 therefore, creates this Act to establish the Youth and Young  
16 Adult Conservation and Education Pilot Program to provide

1 education and employment opportunities for the youth and young  
2 adults of this State to further the development and  
3 maintenance of the natural resources by Illinois' youth and,  
4 in so doing, to prepare them for the responsibility of  
5 maintaining and managing these resources.

6 Section 10. Definitions.

7 As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise  
8 requires:

9 "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.

10 "Program" means the Youth and Young Adult Conservation and  
11 Education Pilot Program created by this Act.

12 Section 15. Cooperation. The Department shall have the  
13 full cooperation of the Illinois State Board of Education, the  
14 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois  
15 State Job Coordinating Council created by the Federal Job  
16 Training Partnership Act (Public Law 97-300), and the  
17 Department of Employment Security in carrying out the purposes  
18 of this Act.

19 Section 20. Funding. Funding for the Program shall be from  
20 any State or federal funds or grants or other funding received  
21 by the Department. The Program is subject to appropriation by  
22 the General Assembly.

1           Section 25. Youth and Young Adult Conservation and  
2 Education Pilot Program.

3           (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall  
4 administer the Program. The Program may consist of any of the  
5 following:

6           (1) allocation of grants to units of local government  
7 or non-profit entities to provide conservation education  
8 and employment opportunities for youth and young adults of  
9 this State;

10           (2) development and implementation of conservation  
11 education or job training programs; and

12           (3) internship opportunities with the Department for  
13 youth and young adults of this State.

14           (b) The Program's education and employment opportunities  
15 shall be limited to citizens of this State who at the time of  
16 enrollment in the Program are 15 through 25 years of age.  
17 Grants under this Act are limited to units of local government  
18 and non-profit entities that are located in the State of  
19 Illinois and that provide conservation education and  
20 employment opportunities for youth and young adults of this  
21 State.

22           (c) The Department shall designate suitable grant  
23 opportunities, projects, internships, and educational  
24 curriculum for the purposes of this Act.

25           Grants, projects, internships, and curriculum so  
26 designated by the Department shall be for the purpose of: (1)

1 development, enhancement, and maintenance of the natural  
2 resources of the State of Illinois, and offering related  
3 educational opportunities; (2) environmental stewardship and  
4 civic responsibility; (3) enhancement of public lands owned or  
5 leased by the Department or developing and enhancing projects  
6 or initiatives undertaken in whole or part by the Department;  
7 or (4) any combination of the purposes described in items (1)  
8 through (3). Such projects, internships and curriculum shall  
9 include improving the habitat of fauna and flora; improving  
10 utilization of conservation or recreation facilities and lands  
11 by the public; improving water quality; and any other project  
12 deemed by the Department to improve the environmental,  
13 economic, and recreational quality of the State's natural  
14 resources.

15 All projects and internships designated by the Department  
16 shall be within a reasonable commuting time for each  
17 participant. In no circumstance shall interns be required to  
18 spend more than 1 1/2 hours of commuting time to a project or a  
19 designated area, but an intern may agree to spend more than 1  
20 1/2 hours of commuting time to a project or a designated area.

21 (c) Interns shall receive at least the standard minimum  
22 wage as set by the State of Illinois, when applicable, and  
23 shall work normal working hours as determined by the  
24 Department. The interns shall not be classified as employees  
25 of the State for purposes of contributions to the State  
26 Employees' Retirement System of Illinois or any other public

1 employment retirement system of the State.

2 (d) The Department may enter into contracts,  
3 intergovernmental agreements, grants, cooperative agreements,  
4 memoranda of understanding, or other instruments as necessary  
5 to implement the Program.

6 (e) The Department shall adopt administrative rules  
7 pertaining to implementation, standards, criteria, and  
8 administration of the Program.

9 Section 90. Repeal. This Act is repealed on June 30,  
10 2029."