



SR0632SAM001

LRB103 31419 MST 69358 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE RESOLUTION 632

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Resolution 632 by deleting
3 everything after the heading and inserting the following:

4 "WHEREAS, Article 11 SECTION 1 of the Illinois State
5 Constitution states that it is the public policy of the State
6 and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a
7 healthful environment for the benefit of this and future
8 generations; and

9 WHEREAS, SECTION 2 states each person has the right to a
10 healthful environment and that each person may enforce this
11 right against any party, governmental or private, through
12 appropriate legal proceedings subject to reasonable limitation
13 and regulation as the General Assembly may provide by the law;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The General Assembly is charged by law with

1 providing for the implementation and enforcement of this
2 public policy; and

3 WHEREAS, The Illinois 30 by 30 Task Force discussed the
4 application of the 30 by 30 concept in Illinois and considered
5 how agriculture is a predominate land use in the state (75% of
6 the State's land area); and

7 WHEREAS, The Task Force determined that part of a
8 successful strategy would include permanent dedication through
9 fee simple and easement acquisition, as well as voluntary
10 conservation practices; and

11 WHEREAS, Currently, 4.2% of the total land area in
12 Illinois is formally protected for conservation purposes
13 through public and private mechanisms; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the past 10 years, the Illinois Department
15 of Natural Resources has acquired approximately 20,000 acres
16 in fee simple acquisitions; and

17 WHEREAS, The Forestry Development Act provides a reduced
18 property tax rate to private forest owners that enter into
19 agreements to manage their timber through timber stand
20 improvement, to control exotic species, or to develop wildlife
21 habitat; and

1 WHEREAS, The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission has two
2 programs that offer the highest level of legal protection for
3 natural lands in Illinois, the Dedicated Nature Preserve and
4 the Registered Land and Water Reserve; and

5 WHEREAS, The Conservation and Fall Covers for Spring
6 Savings are two programs that support conservation practices
7 on agricultural land; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 1.5 million acres are currently under
9 contract for three programs in Illinois through the Department
10 of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture,
11 the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation
12 Stewardship Program, and the Regional Conservation Partnership
13 Program; and

14 WHEREAS, The health of Illinois' ecosystems is threatened
15 by a number of issues, including habitat degradation and loss,
16 hydrological modifications, spread of exotic species, and
17 economic constraints; and

18 WHEREAS, Over 90% of land in Illinois is privately owned,
19 making conservation partnerships in Illinois an imperative;
20 roughly 87,000 acres of natural lands, both private and
21 public, are preserved in the Illinois Nature Preserves

1 Commission's Nature Preserve and Land and Water Reserve land
2 protection programs; and

3 WHEREAS, Information collected from the measuring of
4 conserved lands would help the State to determine the adequate
5 amount of land that should be conserved, to define the overall
6 percentages and the breakdown by geographical area, and to
7 focus the discussion of access to conserved lands; and

8 WHEREAS, The amount of work needed for a successful
9 outcome would best be accomplished by collaboration with all
10 coordinating State agencies; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition, conservation capacity can be built
12 by increasing conservation agency staffing; and

13 WHEREAS, The participation of students on this project is
14 important for the coordination between public and conservation
15 efforts; and

16 WHEREAS, Aligning programs with local priorities and
17 values provides feedback and actively engages local
18 communities in preparation for new programs and open space;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the creation of
2 a coordinating council under the Illinois Department of
3 Natural Resources, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and
4 the Illinois Lieutenant Governor's Office; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the coordinating council should meet at a
6 minimum of two times to bring together a relevant staff of
7 agencies, students of Pontiac Township High School, and
8 non-governmental organizations to develop a strategy for
9 implementation of 30 by 30 Task Force recommendations; and be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 delivered to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the
13 Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Lieutenant Governor's
14 Office, and Pontiac Township High School."