

1 AN ACT concerning forest preserve districts.

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

4 Section 5. The Downstate Forest Preserve District Act is
5 amended by adding Section 7c as follows:

6 (70 ILCS 805/7c new)

7 Sec. 7c. Conveyance of property for road purposes.

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a forest
9 preserve district located in a county with a population of
10 not less than 750,000 and not more than 1,200,000 may not
11 sell, lease, or convey any interest in land to any other unit
12 of local government for the purpose of constructing a new
13 roadway or widening an existing roadway, including the
14 addition of additional lanes to existing roadways, unless the
15 proposed transfer is submitted to the electors of the
16 district at a regular election and approved by a majority of
17 the electors voting on the question. The board of
18 commissioners must certify the question to the proper
19 election authority, which must submit the question at an
20 election in accordance with the Election Code.

21 The question must be in substantially the following
22 form:

23 Shall the (insert name of forest preserve district)
24 remove land from preservation to be (insert sold, leased,
25 or conveyed) to (insert name of unit of local government
26 to which the land is to be sold, leased, or conveyed) for
27 the purpose of (insert constructing or widening) a
28 county, State, municipal, or township public road through
29 (insert location of road).

30 The votes must be recorded as "Yes" or "No".

31 If a majority of the electors voting on the question vote

1 in the affirmative, the forest preserve district may sell,
2 lease, or convey the land.

3 Nothing in this Section prevents a forest preserve
4 district from constructing and maintaining its own road
5 network on forest preserve lands for the purposes of access
6 to the lands and recreation.

7 This Section does not apply to the sale, lease, or
8 conveyance of land if the improvements to existing roads are
9 necessary for public safety, including, but not limited to,
10 intersection improvements and curb and gutter improvements.