

1 AN ACT concerning natural resources.

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

4 Section 5. The Department of Natural Resources
5 (Conservation) Law of the Civil Administrative Code of
6 Illinois is amended by changing Section 805-535 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 805/805-535) (was 20 ILCS 805/63b2.2)

8 Sec. 805-535. Conservation Police Officers. In addition
9 to the arrest powers prescribed by law, Conservation Police
10 Officers are conservators of the peace and as such have all
11 powers possessed by policemen, except that they may exercise
12 those powers anywhere in this State. Conservation Police
13 Officers acting under the authority of this Section are
14 considered employees of the Department and are subject to its
15 direction, benefits, and legal protection.

16 Any person hired by the Department of Natural Resources
17 after July 1, 2001 for a sworn law enforcement position or
18 position that has arrest authority must meet the following
19 minimum professional standards:

20 (1) At the time of hire, the person must hold a
21 4-year degree in law enforcement, wildlife management, or
22 a field directly related to these 2 areas of study.

23 (2) The person must possess the skill level and
24 demonstrate the ability to swim at a competency level not
25 less than that established by the American Red Cross for
26 an intermediate level swimmer.

27 (3) The person must successfully obtain
28 certification as a police officer under the standards in
29 effect at that time unless that person already holds that
30 certification and must also successfully complete the
31 Conservation Police Academy training program, consisting

1 of not less than 400 hours of training, within one year
2 of hire.

3 The Department of Natural Resources must adopt an
4 administrative rule listing those disciplines that qualify as
5 directly related areas of study and must also adopt, by
6 listing, the American Red Cross "Intermediate Swimmer"
7 standards and testing points.

8 (Source: P.A. 91-239, eff. 1-1-00.)

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
10 becoming law.