

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 (i) a
21 2-year degree and 3 consecutive years of experience as a
22 police officer with the same law enforcement agency or
23 (ii) a 4-year degree.

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

28 (3) The person must successfully obtain
29 certification as a police officer under the standards in
30 effect at that time unless that person already holds that
31 certification and must also successfully complete the

1 Conservation Police Academy training program, consisting
2 of not less than 400 hours of training, within one year
3 of hire.

4 The Department of Natural Resources must adopt an
5 administrative rule listing those disciplines that qualify as
6 directly related areas of study and must also adopt, by
7 listing, the American Red Cross standards and testing points
8 for a skill level equivalent to an intermediate level
9 swimmer.

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

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
12 becoming law.