

STATE FINANCE ACT - CONSERVATION 2000

(Ill. Compiled Statutes, Ch. 30, Par. 105/1 et seq.)

AN ACT to amend the State Finance Act by creating the Conservation 2000 Fund and the Conservation 2000 Projects Fund. P.A. 89-49, approved and eff. June 29, 1995.

Sec. 5.400. The Conservation 2000 Fund.

Sec. 5.401. The Conservation 2000 Projects Fund.

Sec. 6z-31. Conservation 2000.

(a) The Conservation 2000 Fund and the Conservation 2000 Projects Fund are created as special funds in the State Treasury. These funds shall be used to establish a comprehensive program to protect Illinois' natural resources through cooperative partnerships between State government and public and private landowners. Moneys in these Funds may be used, subject to appropriation, by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of Agriculture, Conservation, Energy and Natural Resources, and Transportation for purposes relating to natural resource protection, recreation, tourism, and compatible agricultural and economic development activities. Without limiting these general purposes, moneys in these Funds may be used, subject to appropriation, for the following specific purposes:

(1) To foster sustainable agriculture practices and control soil erosion and sedimentation, including grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts for conservation practice cost-share grants and for personnel, education, and administrative expenses.

(2) To establish and protect a system of ecosystems in public and private ownership through conservation easements, incentives to private landowners, and land acquisition provided these mechanisms are all voluntary on the part of the landowner and do not involve the use of eminent domain.

(3) To develop a systematic and long-term program to effectively measure and monitor natural resources and ecological conditions through investments in technology and involvement of scientific experts.

(4) To initiate strategies to enhance, use, and maintain Illinois' inland lakes through education, technical assistance research, and financial incentives.

(5) To conduct an extensive review of existing Illinois water laws.

(b) The State Comptroller and State Treasurer shall automatically transfer on the last day of each month, beginning on

September 30, 1995 and ending on June 30, 2001, from the General Revenue Fund to the Conservation 2000 Fund, an amount equal to 1/10 of the amount set forth below in fiscal year 1996 and an amount equal to 1/12 of the amount set forth below in each of the other specified fiscal years:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1996	\$ 3,500,000
1997	\$ 9,000,000
1998	\$10,000,000
1999	\$11,000,000
2000	\$12,500,000
2001	\$14,000,000

(c) There shall be deposited into the Conservation 2000 Projects Fund such bond proceeds and other moneys as may, from time to time, be provided by law.