

# Policy Day at PSCC



**PRAIRIE STATE  
CONSERVATION  
COALITION**

*A Collective Voice for Land Conservation in Illinois*

# Agenda

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Legislative Process - Eliot Clay

PSCC Policy Committee - Lindsay Keeney

Illinois is Beautiful - Lindsay Keeney

Conservation Lobby Day -

Bringing Conservation to Decision Makers - Blake Andonov

2024 Legislative Initiatives

Agriculture

- Eliot Clay

Stewardship & Protection

- Amy Doll

Wetlands, Floodplains, & Aquifers

- Ashley Maybanks



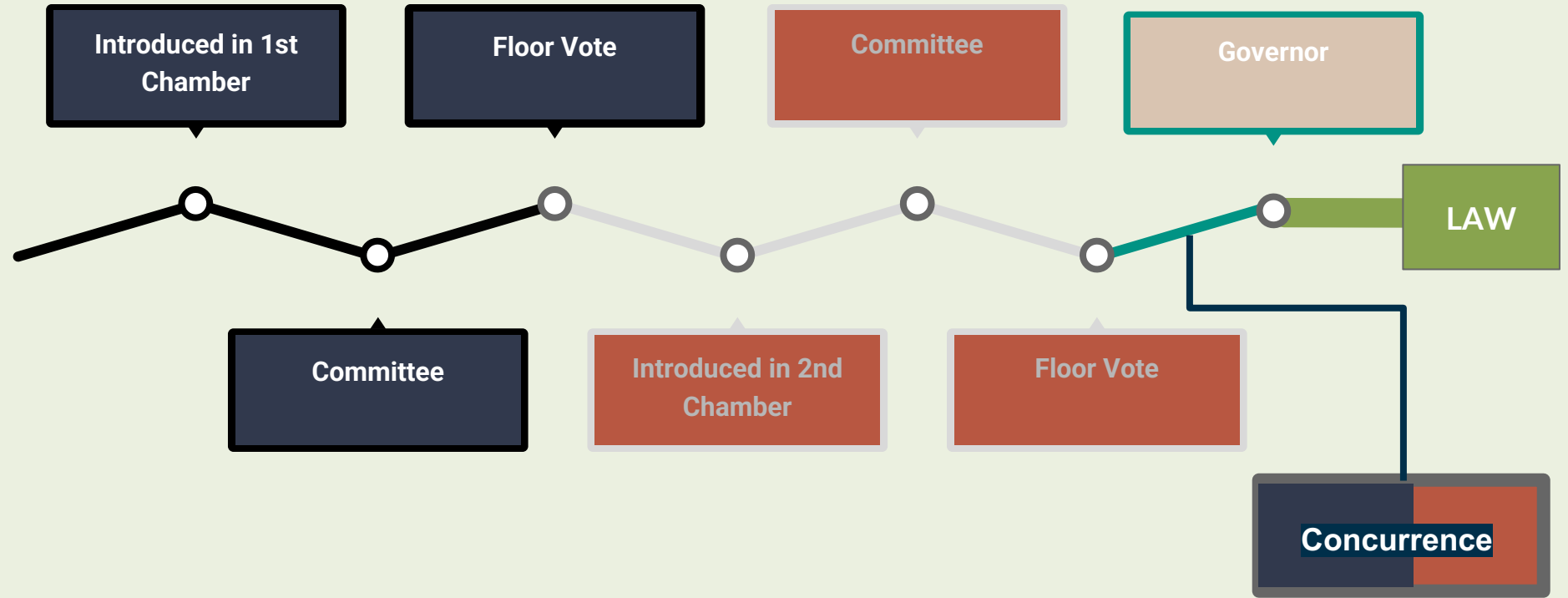
# Legislative Process



# The Legislature

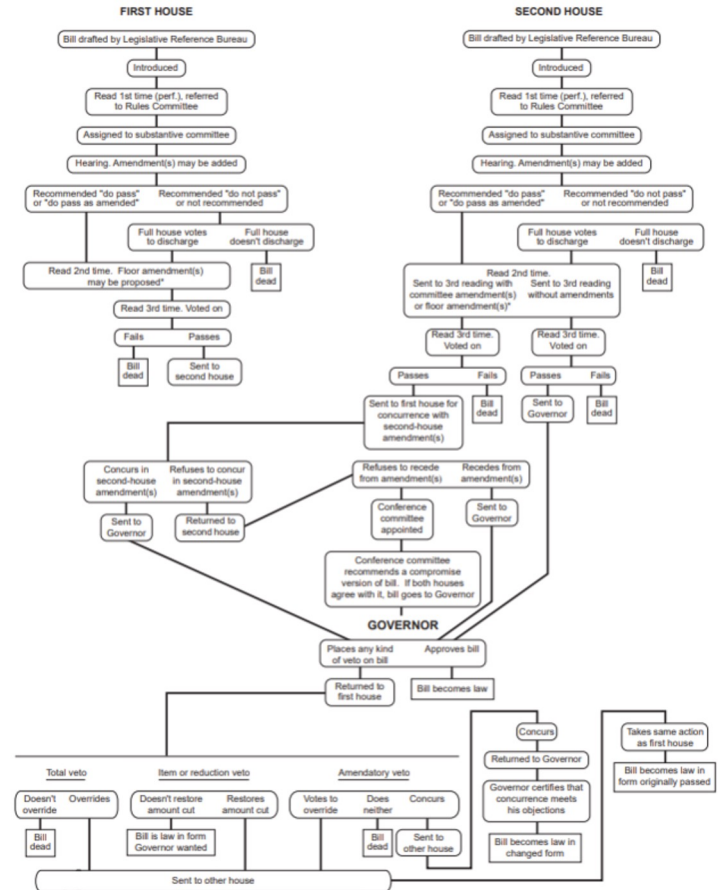
- Who are these people?
  - 118 House Representatives - 78 Dem/40 Rep
  - 59 Senators - 40 Dem/19 Rep
  - 2 House members in each Senate district
- Who represents me?
  - [ilga.gov](http://ilga.gov) - Legislator Lookup

# Process Summarized



# Process Summary

## How A Bill Becomes Law in Illinois



\*Amendments proposed on the floor must go to the Rules Committee approval before being considered.

# Important 2024 Deadlines

## Illinois House

- January 19** – House LRB Requests
- February 9** – House Intro of HBs
- April 5** – Committee Substantive HBs
- April 19** – 3rd Reading HBs
- May 3** – SBs Committee Deadline
- May 17** – House Third Reading Senate Bills
- May 24** – Adjournment

## Illinois Senate

- January 19** – Senate LRB Requests
- February 9** – Intro of Substantive SBs
- March 15** – Substantive SBs Out of Committee
- April 12** – Third Reading Substantive SBs
- May 3** – HBs Out of Committee
- May 17** – Third Reading Substantive HBs
- May 19** – Adjournment

Note: HBs = House Bills, SBs = Senate Bills

# What is a witness slip?

- Indicates organizational support or opposition to a bill.
- Read before the bill is heard in committee.
- Used to be on paper, now accessible online.



# How to File a Witness Slip

- [Reports & Inquiry.](#)
- [Legislative Reports](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
- [My Legislation](#)
- [ETB](#)
- [GA Dashboard](#)

Illinois 101st General Assembly  
ILGA Dashboard

General Assembly:  
101st G.A. (2019-2021) [Go]

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ILLINOIS AMBER ALERT  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Session Schedule

	Today	Scheduled
House	No Session Today	Next: 2/4/2020
Senate	No Session Today	Next: 2/4/2020

Today's House Committee Hearings

View Hearing Details

Date / Time	Committee
1/30/2020 - 9:00 AM	<b>Executive Committee * Cancelled *</b> Capitol Building - Room 118 - Springfield, IL

Displaying items 1 - 1 of 1

Today's Senate Committee Hearings

View Hearing Details

Date / Time	Committee
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# Find the Committee Where the Bill Will be Heard



Illinois 100th General Assembly  
ILGA Dashboard

[ Log On ]

General Assembly:  
100th G.A. (2017-2019) Go

- Home
- House
- Senate
- ILGA.GOV
- Help
- Register



### Session Schedule








	Today	Scheduled
House	Today: 1:00 PM	Next: 2/15/2017
Senate	Today: 9:30 AM	Next: 2/15/2017

### Today's House Committee Hearings

[View Hearing Details](#)

Date / Time	Committee	
2/09/2017 - 10:30 AM	<b>Elementary &amp; Secondary Education: School Curriculum &amp; Policies Committee</b> Capitol Building - Room 114 - Springfield, IL	
2/09/2017 - 10:30 AM	<b>Transportation: Vehicles &amp; Safety Committee</b> Stratton Building - Room C-1 - Springfield, IL	
2/09/2017 - 10:30 AM	<b>Health Care Licenses Committee * Cancelled *</b> Stratton Building - Room D-1 - Springfield, IL	

# Choose Your Committee

2/09/2017 - 10:30 AM	<b>Higher Education Committee</b> Stratton Building - Room 413 - Springfield, IL	
2/09/2017 - 12:00 PM	<b>Restorative Justice Committee</b> Capitol Building - Room 115 - Springfield, IL	
2/09/2017 - 12:00 PM	<b>Aging Committee</b> Capitol Building - Room 122B - Springfield, IL	
2/15/2017 - 2:00 PM	<b>Agriculture &amp; Conservation Committee</b> Capitol Building - Room 115 - Springfield, IL	
2/15/2017 - 2:00 PM	<b>Insurance: Health &amp; Life Committee</b> Stratton Building - Room C-1 - Springfield, IL	
2/15/2017 - 2:00 PM	<b>Public Utilities Committee</b> Capitol Building - Room 114 - Springfield, IL	
2/15/2017 - 2:00 PM	<b>Transportation: Regulation, Roads &amp; Bridges Committee</b> Stratton Building - Room D-1 - Springfield, IL	
2/15/2017 - 2:00 PM	<b>Government Consolidation &amp; Modernization Committee</b> Capitol Building - Room 122B - Springfield, IL	
2/15/2017 - 3:00 PM	<b>Environment</b> Stratton Building - Room D-1 - Springfield, IL	
2/15/2017 - 3:00 PM	<b>Financial Institutions Committee</b> Capitol Building - Room 122B - Springfield, IL	

# Create Witness Slip



## House Environment Hearing Details

**Scheduled Date :** 2/15/2017 - 3:00 PM

**Location :** Room D-1 - Stratton Building - - Springfield, IL

**Posting Date :** 2/09/2017 - 1:06 PM



## Items Posted To Hearing

View Witness Slips

Create Witness Slip

Bill #	Sponsor Name	ABR - Short Description	Witness Slips
HB260	Michelle Mussman	PLANT ADVERTISING-BEES	
HB354	David McSweeney	SCHOOL WATER SUPPLY TESTING	
HB613	Will Guzzardi	SAVING IL POLLINATORS ACT	
HB685	Anna Moeller	CLASSIFY MILKWEED-CNTY & MUNI	
HB718	Brandon W. Phelps	EPA-NPDES DISCHARGE FEE-CITIES	
HB790	Grant Wehrli	ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS RECYCLING	



Displaying items 1 - 6 of 6



# Illinois 98th General Assembly Witness Slip

[ Log On ]

General Assembly:

98th G.A. (2013-2015)

Go

- Home
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- Senate
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## RECORD OF COMMITTEE WITNESS - ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HB 1580**

**Agriculture & Conservation Committee Committee**

BILL OR RESOLUTION  
NUMBER

**Tuesday, March 19, 2013 3:00 PM**

Other (Subject Matter):

Unavailable

### I. IDENTIFICATION

All fields are required unless noted as optional.

Name

Address

City  State  Zip

Firm/Business  
Or Agency

Title

Email

(A confirmation email will be sent if email address is provided.)

Phone  -  -

Fax (Optional)  -  -

### II. REPRESENTATION

This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of a group, organization or other entity.


Persons, groups firms represented in this appearance:

### III. POSITION

# Position

Persons, groups firms represented in this appearance:

## III. POSITION

 Select your position(s) on the legislative items.

Description


Original Bill

Proponent

Opponent

No Position On Merits

## IV. TESTIMONY

 Select the testimony types that you will supply for the hearing. (Check all that apply)

Oral

Written Statement Filed

Record Of Appearance Only

GRAHAM

AVENIDA



Type the text

[Privacy & Terms](#)

# Non-lobbying to Work With Your Elected Officials

- Add them to your newsletter distribution list
- Invite them to attend events
- Attend their events, such as town halls, or non-political forums
- Invite them on a tour or site visit with your staff
- Give them district specific information on the issue that you work on

# Communications that are NOT Lobbying

- Educational communications that do not mention a specific piece of legislation.
- Communication to the general public about a specific piece of legislation that does not express a call to action.

Foundations rarely fund lobbying activities (which are taxable). However, educating lawmakers or the general public is fully fundable.



# Should you register as a lobbyist?

- **NO: Bringing people on a specific lobby day** – 2 Ill Adm. Code 560.210(m) - Individuals or entities employed by a lobbying entity or other participants in a grassroots lobbying event whose lobbying activity is limited to participation at a grass roots lobbying event.
- **NO: Persons or entities that receive no compensation other than reimbursement for expenses of up to \$500 per year** while engaged in lobbying State government, unless those persons make reportable expenditures. 25 ILCS 170/3
- Yes: \$300 per organization and per individual each year.

# In Springfield?

- Stop by the IEC office for all of your printing, WiFi, relaxing, and snacking needs!
- Wear comfy shoes.
- Make the most out of your time by preparing in advance!



# 2024 Lobby Days

March 6 - Soil Health  
April/May TBD - Zero Waste  
April 30 - Conservation  
May 9 - Climate Action

## Bee there!



# PSCC Policy Committee

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Co-Chairs: Lindsay Keeney & Fran Harty -  
lkeeney@ilenviro.org fharty60@gmail.com

Members from PSCC Board:

Paul Botts - pbotts@wetlands-initiative.org

Jim Johannsen - jjohannsen@jdcf.org

Amy Doll - amy@friendsilnature.org

Members from broader community:

Kerry Leigh

Matthew Ruhter (Openlands)

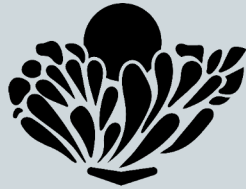
Chris Kessler (Openlands)

EMY Brawley (The Conservation Fund)

Kyle Rorah (Ducks Unlimited)

Eric Mollahan, ILM

Thank  
You!



# ILLINOIS IS BEAUTIFUL

## Wetlands/Floodplains/ Aquifers

### Core Team

Wetlands Working Group:  
TNC, IEC, Sierra Club, Shedd,  
Faith in Place, ELPC, Illinois  
Audubon, PRN, American  
Rivers, TWI

### Priorities:

Wetlands Protection Bill (State  
response to Sackett decision)  
STORM Act  
River Access

## Agriculture

### Core Team

Healthy Soils & Waters  
Coalition: AFT, IEC, ISA,  
PRN, Delta, SWCDs, TNC,  
TWI, IWL, WFF

### Priorities:

Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy  
Implementation  
Conservation Easement Bill  
Funding Advocacy (CREP, FCSS,  
Conservation Programs, SWCDs,  
Agencies)  
Federal: Farm Bill, IRA  
implementation  
Local Food Infrastructure  
Hemp & other specialty industries

## Protection and Stewardship

### Core Team

IEC, PSCC, FINPS, AFT,  
JDCF, TCF, Openlands,  
PRN, TWI

### Priorities:

Conservation Funding  
Prescribed Fire  
SB2357 (NCS Bill)  
INAI Protections  
Exotic Weed additions  
Conservation Applicator License  
Herbicide Drift  
Tax Incentives for Conservation

# CONSERVATION DAY AT THE CAPITOL

APRIL 30  
ILLINOIS STATE CAPITOL

**Speak with legislators about the most important  
conservation issues facing Illinois!**

**REGISTER NOW!**



# Bringing Conservation to Legislators

Outdoor Caucus

Chairs:

Senators Doris  
Turner & Dale  
Fowler

Reps. Laura Faver  
Dias & Dave Severin





# 2024 Priorities

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But first..

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Quick Victory Lap



## HB2317: FIRST-TIME FISHING -

SUPPORT Sponsors: Rep. Rita / Sen.  
Morrison •

Illinois residents aged 26 years or older who have not purchased a fishing license in the previous 10 years are eligible to purchase a license for \$5.



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## **SB58: SINGLE-USE PLASTICS -**

SUPPORT Sponsors: Sen. Fine / Rep. Gong-Gershowitz • Bans the purchase of polystyrene foam foodware by state agencies and public universities by 2025 and by vendors to the state in 2026. This is a major step towards plastic reduction in the state. • SB58 passed the Senate by a vote of 36-20-0 and the House by a vote of 71-43-0.

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## **SB203: INCREASE PESTICIDE VIOLATIONS -**

Sponsors: Sen. Villa / Rep. Avelar • Expands the penalties for improper pesticide applications by making each instance of inadvertent human exposure a separate violation under the Illinois Pesticide Act; increases fine amounts and lowers the threshold for triggering violations under certain circumstances. • SB203 passed the Senate by a vote of 51-2-0 and the House by a vote of 80-24-0.

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## **SB1701: HEALTHY SOILS AND WATER INITIATIVE -**

Sponsors: Sen. Villivalam / Rep. Kelly • Creates the Illinois Healthy Soils and Watersheds Initiative to improve the health of soils and the function of watersheds. This is the first bill Illinois has passed to outline the responsibility of Illinois' state agencies for nutrient pollution reduction and is a major step forward in decreasing Illinois' top water pollution issue. • SB1701 passed the Senate by a vote of 109-6-0 and the House by a vote of 57-0-0.

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## **SB1772: RESTRICT PESTICIDES AROUND SCHOOLS -**

Sponsors: Sen. Morrison / Rep. Hirschauer •

Prohibits the application of pesticides in or around kindergarten through eighth-grade schools. • SB 1772 passed the Senate by a vote of 57-0-0 and the House by a vote of 106-3-0.





# Agriculture

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Eliot Clay





# NLRS Implementation

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Pollution from agricultural runoff impacts our native ecosystems and water supplies. The state must continue dedicating long-term funding to the implementation of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, including increased funding for the Fall covers for Spring Savings Program to the tune of 500,000 acres throughout Illinois.



# Pesticide Bills

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Agencies and groups documenting injury: PRN, IDNR, INPC, IFA, INHS

# Pesticide Bills

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**HB 4932 (Faver Dias)** Requires certified pesticide applicators to give written or email notice 72 hours prior to application of pesticide to schools and parks within half of a mile from the site of application.

**HB 4956 (Mussman)** Bans the sale and use of ester formulations of 2,4-D.

**HB 5018 (Hirschauer)** Increases the penalties associated with off-target damage to trees, as well as the number of penalty points assessed under the Illinois Pesticide Act.

**HB 5075 (Ladisch Douglass)** Prevents members of the general public from purchasing at retail the pesticides 2,4-d, dicamba and atrazine, all of which are linked to extensive damage to natural areas and private property.

# Legacy Act

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**SB 2011 (D. Turner)** It's time to create a new grant program within IDNR to support permanent land conservation in Illinois. The program will make grants to non-profits and local governments to purchase conservation easements on natural areas and farmland. These grants can be used as match funding to access federal conservation dollars.

# Local Food Infrastructure

SB 3077 (Koehler) Illinois' reliance on a global and corporate-controlled food supply undermines sustainable family farmers in our state and threatens our food security.

A Local Food Infrastructure Grant Program will invest in critical infrastructure to scale up the processing, aggregation, and distribution of local food to meet the needs of Illinois communities.



Local farmer & IEC's Rural Affairs Director Chad Wallace at the Old Capitol Farmers Market in Springfield.

# Good Food Purchasing Policy

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## **HB 5052 (Harper)**

Illinois has some of the most fertile farmland in the world, yet we still import over 95% of the food we consume. To reduce the distance between where our food is grown and where it is consumed, this bill creates a Good Food Purchasing Policy, requiring our government to review procurement policies and make changes to incentivize the purchase of locally sourced, ethically raised, and worker-supported food.



# Protection & Stewardship

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Amy Doll



# Rx Fire

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SB 2972 (Bennett)

HB 4717 (Keicher)

This initiative would make it easier for prescribed burn practitioners and other conservation professionals to obtain insurance coverage.

Current liability measures in statute make it nearly **impossible** for these activities to be covered.





# Exotic Weed Additions

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**SB 2747 (Edly-Allen)**

**HB 4782 (B. Hernandez)**

**Both out of committee & on  
Second Reading!**



Allows the Department of Natural Resources to add species to the Exotic Weed Act by rule, which should make the DNR much more responsive to emerging invasive species threats

# Turtle Trapping

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SB 1890 (Anderson)

**Oppose**



Legalizes the trapping & harvesting of snapping turtles via non-selective trapping.

This would be detrimental to our endangered turtle species.

# Illinois Native Plant Initiatives

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**HB 2048 (Faver Dias)** Restricts highway mowing to allow native plants to thrive.

**HB 4839 (Faver Dias)** This would create the Illinois Native Landscape Act and prohibit local governments from enacting ordinances banning native landscaping.

**HB 5296 (Faver Dias)** Authorizes IDNR to provide financial & technical assistance for the planting of native and pollinator friendly plants, and may award grants based on species present.

**HB 5067 (Harper)** Creates the “Lawns to Legumes” program that would require IDNR to offer grants up to \$400 for turning lawns into pollinator gardens.

**SB 2781 (Ventura)** Creates the Healthy Forest, Wetlands & Prairies grant program within IDNR to restore degraded forest lands and native prairies.

# OSLAD Disadvantaged Communities Provision

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- SB2629/HB4189
- Villanueva/Smith

Allows distressed location projects to be eligible for assistance up to 100% for the acquisition of open space lands and for capital development and improvement projects. Provides that no less than 10% of the amount appropriated under the Act in any fiscal year shall be made available as grants to distressed communities.

- Changes 10% ceiling to a floor



# Township Open Space

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**HB 3642 (Faver Dias) (Edly-Allen)** Requires that property acquired under the open space provisions of the township code must go back to the voters via referendum if it is to be sold or dispensed in another manner than it was originally intended, expands use for recreational sports.

# Tax Incentives for Permanent Conservation

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HB5026 - Hirschauer

incentivizes private property owners to voluntarily protect their land for conservation purposes.

Allows properties dedicated for permanent conservation to be valued at \$5/acre



Revis Hill Prairie



# 15 Min BREAK

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Checkout, walk around, get coffee, talk  
to your friends :)





# Wetlands, Floodplains, & Aquifers

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Ashley Maybanks





# State Wetlands Protections



**SB 3669 (Ellman)**

**HB 5386 (Moeller)**

Seeks to codify in state law protections for wetlands and other small bodies of water which were left vulnerable as a result of a SCOTUS decision in 2023 which severely limited the federal EPA's interpretation of the Clean Water Act; this will ensure that wetlands in Illinois still receive protection even in the face of federal regulatory uncertainty.

# STORM Act

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**SB 3458 (Halpin)/HB 5297 (Harper)** Creates a resilience revolving loan fund that communities can quickly access to fund hazard mitigation to address climate resilience and natural disaster.

If Illinois fails to pass legislation to create an RLF, we'll lose out on millions of federal natural disaster dollars.



# River Access

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## HB 4708 (Yang Rohr)

Clarifies existing law and affirms that citizens have the right to recreate on Illinois river systems.