

Policy Updates



**PRAIRIE STATE
CONSERVATION
COALITION**

A Collective Voice for Land Conservation in Illinois

Agenda

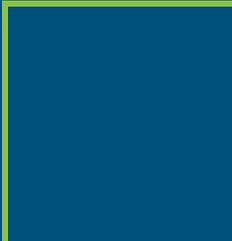
Legislative Priorities - Lindsay and
Special Guests*

Legislative Process - Blake Andonov

PSCC Policy Committee - Lindsay
Keeney

Conservation Lobby Day - Lindsay
Keeney

2025 Legislative Initiatives



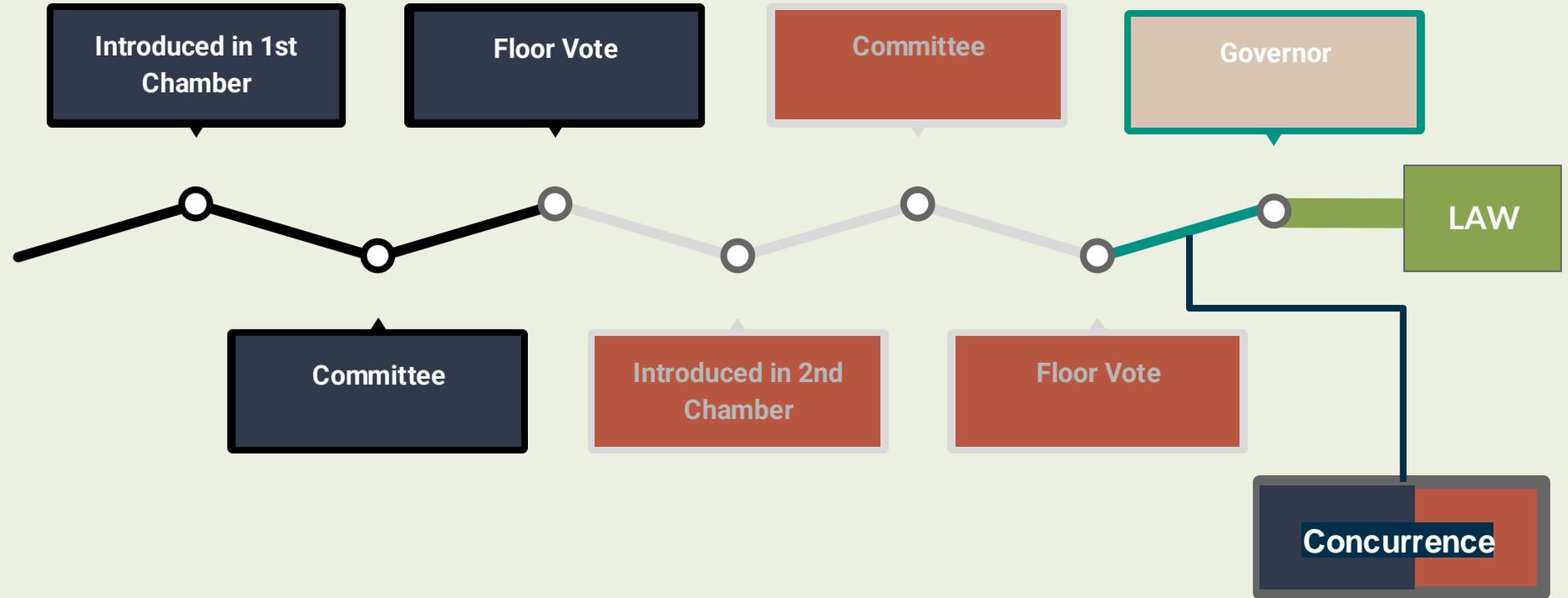
Legislative Process



The Legislature

- Who are these people?
 - 118 House Representatives - 78 Dem/40 Rep
 - 59 Senators - 40 Dem/19 Rep
 - 2 House members for every Senate district
- Who represents me?
 - ilga.gov - Legislator Lookup

The ideal process



Important 2025 Deadlines

Illinois House

- January 24** – House LRB Requests
- February 7** – House Intro of HBs
- March 21** – Committee Substantive HBs
- April 11** – 3rd Reading HBs
- May 9** – SBs Committee Deadline
- May 23** – House Third Reading Senate Bills
- May 31** – Adjournment

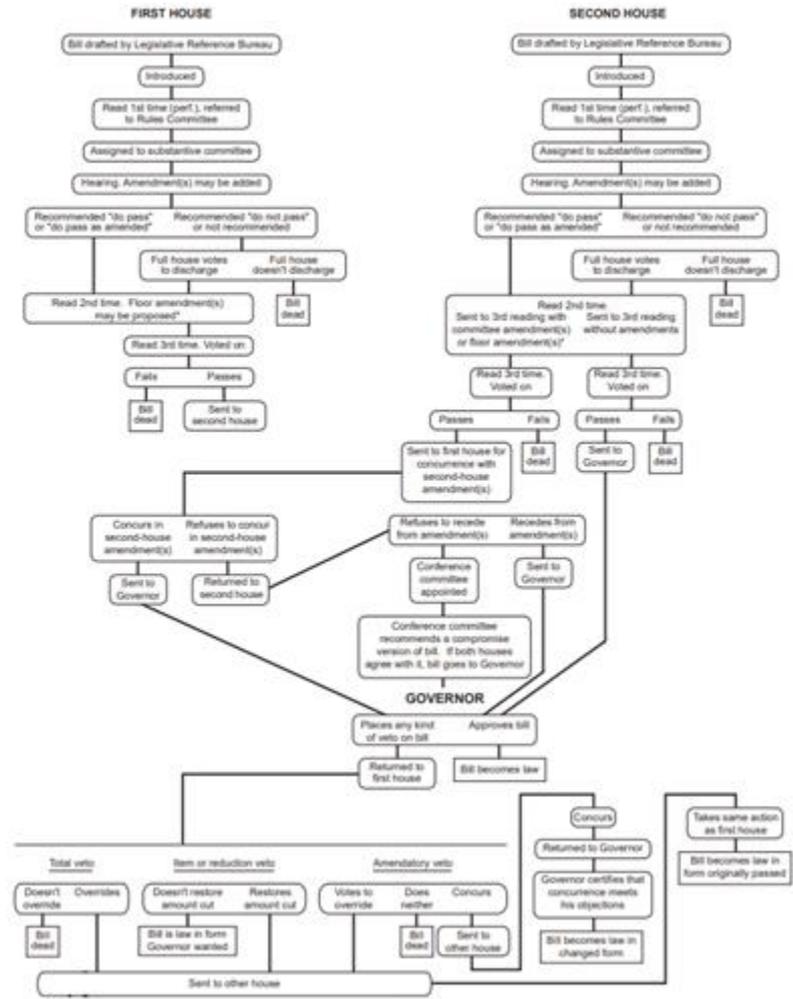
Illinois Senate

- January 24** – Senate LRB Requests
- February 7** – Intro of Substantive SBs
- March 21** – Committee Substantive SBs
- April 11** – Third Reading Substantive SBs
- May 9** – HBs Out of Committee
- May 23** – Third Reading Substantive HBs
- May 31** – Adjournment

Note: HBs = House Bills, SBs = Senate Bills

The *real* process

How A Bill Becomes Law in Illinois



Want to get involved but don't know where to start?

- **Fill out a witness slip**
 - We send these out weekly for bills that we support or oppose that are in committee
- **Attend a lobby day**
 - We host or collaborate on a handful each legislative session
- **Join an IEC or PSCC webinar or lunch & learn**
 - Don't want to come all the way to Springfield? Join an informational webinar over zoom on a host of topics
- **Fill out an action alert**
 - We send these out when we need large constituent outreach to legislators.

Non-lobbying things you can do to engage 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

Need lobbying help in the capitol or have questions? Call Blake!

- Blake is the point person for conservation & agriculture bills
- Before his time at IEC he worked for the House of Representatives
- If he can't answer your question, he will connect you with someone who can!



Oka'n Savanna in Pembroke

2025 Lobby Days

March 5th - Soil Health

March 20th - Zero Waste

April 8th - Food & Farm

April 9th - Conservation

May 15th - Black Farmer

May tbd - Climate Action

Bee there!



SCAN ME



**ACT NOW FOR
HEALTHY SOIL
FOR
GENERATIONS
TO COME**

SOIL HEALTH ADVOCACY DAY 2025

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

CONSERVATION
Lobby Day

Advocate for Illinois'
natural and open space!

APRIL 9, 2025 IN SPRINGFIELD





2025 Legislative Updates

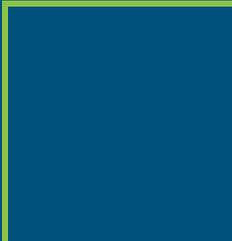
2024 Victories

Exotic Weed Additions - SB 2747 (Public Act 103-0610) 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.

Local Food Infrastructure Act - SB 3077 (Public Act 103-0772) Created a grant program in the Department of Ag that will invest in critical infrastructure to scale up the processing, aggregation, and distribution of local food to meet the needs of Illinois communities.

Pesticide Notification - SB 3342 (Public Act 103-0976) Requires notice for pesticide applications when spraying on public right of ways.





2025 Priorities



NLRS Strategy

Buffer Requirement - SB 1789 / HB 2729 (Ellman/Moeller) Requires landowners whose property that is adjacent to a water body to maintain a buffer of non-invasive vegetation to protect against nutrient runoff and soil erosion.

Soil Health Week - HR 4 / HB 54 (Meier) Designates the first full week in March as Soil Health Week This resolution seeks to boost public awareness of sustainable soil management practices essential for resilient agriculture and ecosystem health.

SWCD Funding - SB 1689 (Koehler) Restores funding for Illinois' Soil and Water Conservation Districts for FY26

Cover Crops - HB 3992 / SB 2625 (Chung/Ellman) Appropriates \$6.1 million for at least 1,000,000 acres of cover crops.

Good Food Purchasing Policy - HB 3701 / SB 2187 (Harper/Preston) Enables public institutions to leverage a transparent food procurement policy that builds community wealth and public health.

Pesticide Bills

Advanced Notification HB 1596 - (Faver Dias) Requires large scale pesticide applicators to give 72 hours prior notice to schools and parks within half of a mile of the site of application.

Ester 2,4 -D Ban HB 1645 - (Mussman) Bans the sale and use of ester formulations of 2,4-D.

Licensing Restructure SB 1574 / HB 3844 - (D. Turner/Harper)
Creates a new pesticide licensing test for small scale applicators.

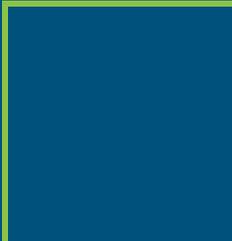
Land Protection Agreements

Indigenous Peoples' Conservation Rights Act - HB 1605 (West) Adds federally recognized indian tribes to the list of entities allowed to hold conservation easements.

Property Tax Relief - HB 1609 / SB 2200 (Hirschauer/Guzman) Provides property tax relief for private landowners that enroll their property into a permanent land protection agreement.

Tax Incentives - HB 3457 / SB 2281 (Guzzardi/Martwick) Provides tax incentives for landowners that voluntarily protect their land by a donation, gift of land or an easement.

The Legacy Act - HB 2475 / SB 1879 (Lilly/Koehler) Creates a new matching grant program that will enable Illinois to leverage federal farm bill dollars to pay landowners for farmland and natural area land protection commitments.



Protection & Stewardship

Rx Fire

HB 2514 (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.



Turtle Trapping

SB 1427 (Anderson)

Oppose



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

This would be detrimental to our endangered turtle species.

Open Space Initiatives

Township Open Space - HB 1367 (Faver Dias) Requires that property acquired by open space townships must go back to the voters via referendum if it is to be sold or dispensed in another manner than it was originally intended.

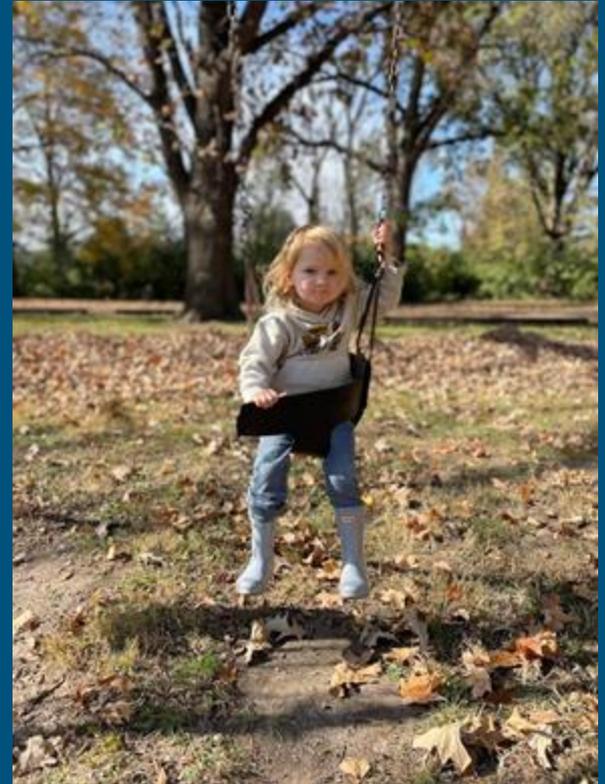
Forest Preserve Revenue - HB 2393 (Kifowit) Provides a mechanism for Forest Preserve District tax revenues with a referendum.

OSLAD Disadvantaged Communities Provision

HB 3654 / SB 2466 (Evans/Aquino)

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





Wetlands, Floodplains, & Aquifers

Ashley Maybanks



State Wetlands Protections



SB 2401 (Ellman)

HB 3596 (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.

River Access



HB 1873 (Yang Rohr)

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

If you would like to be added to our weekly coalition calls, send me an email!



Building Power as a Coalition

A PSCC Priority



Illinois voices with legislative influence

Illinois Farm Bureau

Illinois Realtors Association

Labor Unions

Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association

Illinois Municipal League

For Prairie State Conservation Coalition to be on this list we all
need to get involved!

An example from Wisconsin A Potential Model

Gathering Waters

- To ensure Wisconsin's land trusts remain strong, sustainable organizations, Gathering Waters:
 - Advocates for government funding that provides millions of dollars to land trusts each year
 - Increases statewide awareness of the opportunities and benefits land trusts bring to the communities they serve
- The Result: The Knowles Nelson Fund
 - \$1.3 billion invested over 30 years
 - Bi-partisan support for land and water protection



An example from Ohio A Potential Model

Ohio Water Partnership

- The Ohio Water Partnership is a broad-based and diverse coalition of businesses and business organizations that support improving water quality policy in the state of Ohio.
- Our mission: and equitable approach to protecting and preserving Ohio's natural water resources with focus on promoting Ohio's competitive in all its forms across the state.
- The Result: H2Ohio - \$47 M investment in FY 24-25
 - PFAS Prevalence Study
 - Dam Removal
 - Aquatic Species Survey
 - Land Conservation
 - Road Salt REduction
 - Litter Prevention



An example from Minnesota A Potential Model

Minnesota Legacy Coalition

- A large group of conservation interests that work together to defend the various dedicated funding mechanisms currently in place in MN (sales tax and lottery proceeds).
- Also work collaboratively to help the state agencies defend their budgets and work defensively to counter any anti-conservation legislation.
- The Result: A statewide ballot campaign to reauthorize their lottery proceed money for conservation program (Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund) for another 25 years.
- Voters overwhelmingly approved it.



CLEAN WATER
LAND & LEGACY
AMENDMENT

Conservation Connector

Title: From Passion to Policy: Effective Conservation Advocacy & Engagement

Progress Right Now

Email the contact information for the point person at your organization to **blake@ilenviro.org**