

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
State of Illinois  
2021 and 2022  
SB2474

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Ram Villivalam

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

30 ILCS 105/6z-32

Creates the Illinois Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act. Provides legislative findings. Amends the State Finance Act. Provides that moneys in the Partners for Conservation Fund and the Partners for Conservation Projects Fund may be used to implement the State's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, including funding for specified needs. Provides that the State Comptroller shall automatically transfer moneys to the Partners for Conservation Fund through June 30, 2027 (currently, 2021). Specifies the amount of moneys transferred to the Fund from 2022 through 2027 (currently, only for 2021). Specifies amounts and uses for moneys to be used by the Fund through specified years. Provides specified amounts to be transferred from the General Revenue Fund into the Partners for Conservation Fund for each year of 2022 through 2027. Provides that for years 2022 through 2027 funding from the Partners for Conservation Fund shall be provided to the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Natural Resources annually in specified amounts and for specified uses. Effective immediately.

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FISCAL NOTE ACT MAY  
APPLY

**A BILL FOR**

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1 AN ACT concerning nutrient loss reduction.

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

4 Section 1. References to Act. This Act may be referred to  
5 as the Illinois Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act.

6 Section 3. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

7 (1) Excessive levels of nutrients are degrading the  
8 quality of streams, rivers, and lakes within the State of  
9 Illinois and contributing to the dead zone in the Gulf of  
10 Mexico.

11 (2) The State's Environmental Protection Agency and  
12 Department of Agriculture collaborated with the Policy Working  
13 Group, working with academics, environmental nonprofits,  
14 representatives of federal, State, and local agencies,  
15 wastewater treatment professionals, and the agricultural  
16 community to develop the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction  
17 Strategy in 2015. They continue to collaborate to implement  
18 the Strategy.

19 (3) The Strategy sets a milestone to reduce nitrogen loads  
20 in Illinois waters that leave the State by 15% and phosphorus  
21 loads by 25% by 2025 from baseline levels of 1980-1996. One  
22 goal is to reduce both nitrogen and phosphorus loads by 45%.

23 (4) The Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of

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1 Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture require  
2 resources to administer and implement the Strategy in order to  
3 meet the Strategy's 2025 milestone and goal.

4 (5) Nutrient capture practices cost share grants will  
5 assist Illinois' agricultural economy in meeting the goals of  
6 the Strategy.

7 (6) Soil and Water Conservation Districts assist Illinois  
8 farmers in implementing nutrient capture practices on their  
9 farmland.

10 Section 5. The State Finance Act is amended by changing  
11 Section 6z-32 as follows:

12 (30 ILCS 105/6z-32)

13 Sec. 6z-32. Partners for Planning and Conservation.

14 (a) The Partners for Conservation Fund (formerly known as  
15 the Conservation 2000 Fund) and the Partners for Conservation  
16 Projects Fund (formerly known as the Conservation 2000  
17 Projects Fund) are created as special funds in the State  
18 Treasury. These funds shall be used to establish a  
19 comprehensive program to protect Illinois' natural resources  
20 through cooperative partnerships between State government and  
21 public and private landowners. Moneys in these Funds may be  
22 used, subject to appropriation, by the Department of Natural  
23 Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department  
24 of Agriculture for purposes relating to natural resource

1 protection, planning, recreation, tourism, and compatible  
2 agricultural and economic development activities. Without  
3 limiting these general purposes, moneys in these Funds may be  
4 used, subject to appropriation, for the following specific  
5 purposes:

6 (1) To foster sustainable agriculture practices and  
7 control soil erosion, ~~and~~ sedimentation, and nutrient loss  
8 from farmland, including grants to Soil and Water  
9 Conservation Districts for conservation practice  
10 cost-share grants and for personnel, educational, and  
11 administrative expenses.

12 (2) To establish and protect a system of ecosystems in  
13 public and private ownership through conservation  
14 easements, incentives to public and private landowners,  
15 natural resource restoration and preservation, water  
16 quality protection and improvement, land use and watershed  
17 planning, technical assistance and grants, and land  
18 acquisition provided these mechanisms are all voluntary on  
19 the part of the landowner and do not involve the use of  
20 eminent domain.

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

25 (4) To initiate strategies to enhance, use, and  
26 maintain Illinois' inland lakes through education,

1 technical assistance, research, and financial incentives.

2 (5) To partner with private landowners and with units  
3 of State, federal, and local government and with  
4 not-for-profit organizations in order to integrate State  
5 and federal programs with Illinois' natural resource  
6 protection and restoration efforts and to meet  
7 requirements to obtain federal and other funds for  
8 conservation or protection of natural resources.

9 (6) To implement the State's Nutrient Loss Reduction  
10 Strategy, including, but not limited to, funding the  
11 resources needed to support the Strategy's Policy Working  
12 Group, cover water quality monitoring in support of  
13 Strategy implementation, prepare a biennial report on the  
14 progress made on the Strategy every 2 years, and provide  
15 cost share funding for nutrient capture projects.

16 (b) The State Comptroller and State Treasurer shall

17 automatically transfer on the last day of each month,  
 18 beginning on September 30, 1995 and ending on June 30, 2027  
 19 ~~2021~~, from the General Revenue Fund to the Partners for  
 20 Conservation Fund, an amount equal to 1/10 of the amount set  
 21 forth below in fiscal year 1996 and an amount equal to 1/12 of  
 22 the amount set forth below in each of the other specified  
 23 fiscal years:

24 Fiscal Year	Amount
25 1996	\$ 3,500,000
26 1997	\$ 9,000,000

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1 1998	\$10,000,000
2 1999	\$11,000,000
3 2000	\$12,500,000
4 2001 through 2004	\$14,000,000
5 2005	\$7,000,000
6 2006	\$11,000,000
7 2007	\$0
8 2008 through 2011	\$14,000,000
9 2012	\$12,200,000
10 2013 through 2017	\$14,000,000
11 2018	\$1,500,000
12 2019	\$14,000,000
13 2020	\$7,500,000
14 2021	\$14,000,000
15 <u>2022</u>	<u>\$18,135,000</u>
16 <u>2023</u>	<u>\$19,900,000</u>
17 <u>2024</u>	<u>\$23,025,000</u>
18 <u>2025</u>	<u>\$25,665,000</u>
19 <u>2026</u>	<u>\$25,680,000</u>
20 <u>2027</u>	<u>\$25,695,000</u>

21 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
 22 contrary and in addition to any other transfers that may be  
 23 provided for by law, on the last day of each month beginning on  
 24 July 31, 2006 and ending on June 30, 2007, or as soon  
 25 thereafter as may be practical, the State Comptroller shall  
 26 direct and the State Treasurer shall transfer \$1,000,000 from

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1 the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Fund to the  
 2 Partners for Conservation Fund (formerly known as the  
 3 Conservation 2000 Fund).

4 (d) There shall be deposited into the Partners for  
5 Conservation Projects Fund such bond proceeds and other moneys  
6 as may, from time to time, be provided by law.

7 (e) For years 2022 through 2027, \$1,075,000 from the  
8 Partners for Conservation Fund shall be provided annually to  
9 the Agency and used as follows:

10 (1) \$530,000 for coordination of Strategy  
11 implementation, including, but not limited to, meeting  
12 coordination, reporting, and watershed coordination; and

13 (2) \$545,000 to cover water quality monitoring in  
14 support of Strategy implementation.

15 (f) For years 2022 through 2027, funding from the Partners  
16 for Conservation Fund shall be provided annually to the  
17 Department of Agriculture:

18 (1) to be used for Soil and Water Conservation  
19 Districts for personnel, educational, and administrative  
20 expenses;

21 (2) to fund the Cover Crops Insurance Premium Discount  
22 Program; and

23 (3) for conservation practices cost share grants and  
24 technical assistance.

25 Funding provided to the Department of Agriculture under  
26 this subsection shall be in the amount set forth below in each

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1 of the specified fiscal years:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>2022</u>	<u>\$10,060,000</u>
<u>2023</u>	<u>\$11,825,000</u>
<u>2024</u>	<u>\$14,950,000</u>
<u>2025</u>	<u>\$17,590,000</u>
<u>2026</u>	<u>\$17,605,000</u>
<u>2027</u>	<u>\$17,620,000</u>

9 (g) For years 2022 through 2027, \$7,000,000 funding from  
10 the Partners for Conservation Fund shall be provided annually  
11 to the Department of Natural Resources and used as follows:

12 (1) \$6,000,000 for personnel, educational,  
13 administrative, and conservation practices expenses; and

14 (2) \$1,000,000 for conservation practices on publicly  
15 owned property of the Department of Natural Resources, and  
16 its surrounding area, that is leased to agricultural  
17 producers.

18 In this Section, "strategy" means the Illinois  
19 Environmental Protection Agency's 2015 Illinois Nutrient Loss  
20 Reduction Strategy and its biennial reports of 2017 and 2019.

21 (Source: P.A. 100-23, eff. 7-6-17; 101-10, eff. 6-5-19.)

22           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
23    becoming law.