
NUTRIENT LOSS THREAT: Nutrient pollution is Illinois' 'most widespread' water problem

Andrew Adams | Illinois Newsroom | Jan. 28, 2022

Please co-sponsor and support!

SB 3471



The Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act

Short Description

- Creates the Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act.
 - Creates the Illinois Healthy Soils and Watersheds Initiative.
 - Amends the State Finance Act by extending the Partners for Conservation Fund through 2032.
 - Provides for the adoption of guidelines and needs assessments to assist soil and water conservation districts in determining local goals and needs for project implementation to accomplish the goals of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.
 - Requires the production of an Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Report every 2 years.
 - Provides for the update of water quality program guidance.
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Why is this bill needed?

Nutrient loss issues threaten the resilience of Illinois communities, economy and environment by reducing the resilience of the agricultural sector, increasing utility costs for water treatment to protect clean water, making the effects of climate change worse, disproportionately impacting low-income communities, and hurting wildlife ecosystems.

Illinois expanding Gulf of Mexico 'dead zone'

Morgan Greene | Chicago Tribune | Dec. 20, 2021

The rise of algae blooms: This year, more than a dozen of the water bodies sampled in Illinois had toxin levels above recreation standards.

Morgan Greene | Chicago Tribune | Nov. 18, 2021

What does the bill do?

- Declares that soil and water conservation practices need to accelerate in order to reduce nutrient loss, improve and protect soil health, and achieve water quality goals and creates a framework for how funding should be spent to address the goals of the State's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.
- Directs the Department of Ag to create guidelines and guidance to assist the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in developing goals and needs assessments to establish regular, measurable, cost effective and technically achievable goals to advance strategies which improve healthy soils and watersheds and reduce nutrient loss.
- Outlines specific strategies that the Department of Ag and partners can use to begin exploring soil health and water quality issues facing beginning, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and means to provide more resources that support their farming operations.
- Protects critical conservation funding like the Partners for Conservation Fund and extends the Fund to 2032 - the fund sunsets at the end of FY22.
- Makes the Partners for Conservation Fund eligible to receive grants, gifts, and awards from public or private entities.
- Provides 10-year funding guidance to support capacity development and project implementation

Who supports the bill?

Partners from across the agriculture and environmental sectors came together to create the Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act.

- American Farmland Trust
- Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Illinois Environmental Council
- Illinois Stewardship Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy Illinois
- Natural Lands Institute
- The Wetlands Initiative
- Savanna Institute
- Sierra Club Illinois



Nutrient pollution in Illinois rivers rising unabated, Rock River nitrate pollution is up 135%

Northern Public Radio | Juanpablo Ramirez-Franco | Oct. 1, 2021