

ESPB Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species Review and Revision Process

How to Participate in the List review process or make recommendations to the Board for changes to the Illinois List

1. Submit endangered and threatened (E&T) species reports to the Illinois Natural Heritage (Biotics) Database. A vital way to participate in the review process is to submit E&T survey results and observations to the [Illinois Natural Heritage \(Biotics\) Database](#). The Database is a primary source of evidence used during the review and revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species and supports Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) protective functions, including E&T species consultation, E&T species incidental take authorization, and issuance of E&T species possession permits. The Database also informs conservation and recovery efforts undertaken by the Board, IDNR, and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

2. Prepare and submit a petition package to the Board recommending a change in the List.

Anyone can prepare and submit a petition package to add a species to the List, change the current listing status of a species, or remove a species from the List. To submit a petition package, email all petition documents to dnr.espb@illinois.gov. Submitted petition packages will be given an administrative review for completeness. If a package is deemed incomplete, it will be returned to the petitioner(s) for additional information; the revised package can then be resubmitted. Administratively accepted petition packages will be considered by the Board during a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting.

If a petition package has been returned as incomplete and the petitioner elects not to revise and resubmit it, there are three options.

- a) **The petitioner may request to address the Board as an agenda item at a meeting open to the public.**
The request to present the unrevised petition package as an agenda item needs to be received by the Board at least 30 days prior to a meeting date. The petitioner will be notified if the item is to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting or a later one. The Board may engage in discussion and may take action during the meeting on a petition package presented as an agenda item.
- b) **The petitioner may address the Board during the public comment period at any Board meeting open to the public.** The petitioner may address the Board during the three-minute public comment period offered at all meetings open to the public. No advance notice of intent is necessary. The Board accepts comments but does not engage in discussion or take action on comments made during the public comment period. The Board may elect to further address the comment at a later time.
- c) **The petitioner may submit the unrevised petition package to the Board during the public hearing period held prior to the Board finalizing changes to the List.**
The public hearing period is held after the Board votes preliminary approval and before it confirms final approval of changes to the List (see item 4 below).

3. Address the Board by making a public comment at any Board meeting open to the public.

Anyone can address the Board during the public comment period offered at all Board meetings open to the public. No advance notice of intent is necessary. The Board accepts comments but does not engage in discussion or take action on comments during the public comment period. The Board may elect to further address the comment at a later meeting.

4. Submit comments and evidence to the Board during the public hearing period held prior to the Board finalizing changes to the List.

The public hearing period is held after the Board votes preliminary approval but before it confirms final approval of any changes to the List. Notice of the public hearing period is posted on the Board's website once it has been scheduled. The hearing period spans two weeks. It consists of a physical meeting open to the public at the beginning of the period and the subsequent two-week period during which written comments can be submitted. The Board accepts comments and evidence but does not engage in discussion or take action on comments during the public hearing period. At the next open meeting following the public hearing period, the Board reviews and gives its response to all comments and evidence it has received.

5. Submit comments to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) during the First Notice comment period.

There is a 45-day comment period for the First Notice of proposed Administrative Rule amendments incorporating approved changes to the List. First Notice is published in the Illinois Register. The IDNR takes the lead in the Administrative Rule process with JCAR.



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD