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SENATE FILE
BY DOYLE

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Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating an Iowa resource development fund and providing
2 for the allocation of funds for water resources and related
3 projects.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 455A.25 STATEMENT OF INTENT.

2 The general assembly finds that it is in the public
3 interest to properly develop the waters and related land
4 resources of the state.

5 Therefore, it is in the public interest of the state to
6 financially assist in programs and projects necessary to the
7 development, preservation, and maintenance of Iowa's waters
8 and related land resources including programs and projects for
9 reduction of flood damage, protection and improvement of
10 public lands, provision for and protection of public outdoor
11 recreation lands and facilities, and preservation of the
12 waters of this state for all beneficial uses, and the
13 development of plans to assist in these activities.

14 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 455A.26 IOWA RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
15 FUND CREATED.

16 An Iowa resource development fund is created. The fund
17 shall be administered by the department. The fund shall
18 consist of appropriated moneys, gifts, bequests, repayments,
19 and contributions or payments from other public or private
20 sources. All moneys credited to the fund are appropriated for
21 loans or grants for the purposes specified in section 455A.27.
22 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the fund are not
23 subject to reversion or reappropriation of the unexpended
24 balance at the end of a fiscal year. Notwithstanding section
25 453.7, interest earned on moneys in the Iowa resource
26 development fund shall be credited to the fund.

27 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 455A.27 ALLOCATION OF GRANTS AND
28 LOANS.

29 The department shall allocate the moneys in the Iowa
30 resource development fund in the form of grants, loans, or
31 both grants and loans for programs and projects including, but
32 not limited to: the reduction of flood damage, protection and
33 improvement of public lands, provision for and protection of
34 public outdoor recreation lands and facilities, and the
35 preservation of the waters of this state for all beneficial

1 uses. The moneys may be used for the development plan,
2 construction of a project, modification of a project, or
3 enlargement of a project. A project receiving moneys from the
4 Iowa resource development fund shall not receive more than
5 five million dollars per year for a maximum of five years. A
6 program or project must provide a general public benefit as
7 determined by the department.

8 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 455A.28 PROJECT SPONSORS,
9 SELECTION, APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

10 1. The department shall allocate moneys for grants or
11 loans to public agencies within the state which the department
12 finds are qualified to act as local sponsors of approved
13 projects.

14 2. An application for a loan or a grant shall be filed in
15 the manner and form as prescribed by the department. An
16 application shall include the following information:

17 a. A description of the nature and purpose of the proposed
18 project.

19 b. A plan for development of the proposed project
20 including engineering, economic, and financial feasibility
21 data, estimated costs, and schedule.

22 c. A statement of other project financing.

23 d. A statement that the applicant holds or can acquire
24 title to necessary lands, easements, and rights-of-way for the
25 proposed project.

26 e. A showing that the applicant possesses all necessary
27 authority to undertake the proposed project.

28 f. The probable environmental and ecological consequences
29 resulting from the proposed project.

30 3. Rules required to implement projects funded from the
31 Iowa resource development fund shall be adopted pursuant to
32 chapter 17A.

33 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 455A.29 PROJECT REVIEW PROCEDURES.

34 Within ninety days after receipt of an application, the
35 director shall review the application in relation to the

1 policies adopted by the natural resource commission and make a
2 recommendation which, if applicable, shall include a
3 recommendation on the form of allocation. The natural
4 resource commission shall act on a recommendation within sixty
5 days of receipt from the director. The natural resource
6 commission shall determine the priority in which funds are
7 allocated for eligible projects. A member of the natural
8 resource commission shall not participate in the action of the
9 commission concerning an application for funding a project in
10 which the member has an interest.

11 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 455A.30 CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.

12 The director may recommend and the natural resource
13 commission may approve a grant, loan, or both a grant and loan
14 for a project that meets the following criteria:

15 1. The project does not conflict with a state waters plan
16 or related plan.

17 2. The project is economically and financially feasible
18 based upon standards adopted by the natural resource
19 commission.

20 3. The project minimizes potential adverse impacts on the
21 natural environment.

22 4. The project is sponsored by a qualified, responsible,
23 and capable public agency within the state.

24 5. If a loan is approved, the applicant has the
25 demonstrated ability to repay the debt.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill creates an Iowa resource development fund to
28 provide moneys for projects for the reduction of flood damage,
29 protection and improvement of public lands, the protection of
30 public outdoor recreation lands and facilities, and the
31 preservation of the waters of the state for all beneficial
32 uses. The moneys are to be expended in the form of grants,
33 loans, or both to fund these projects sponsored by public
34 agencies within the state. The projects are limited to a
35 maximum of \$5 million per year for not more than five years.

1 The program is administered by the natural resource commission
2 and the department of natural resources.

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