

175.4 Legislative findings.

The general assembly finds and declares as follows:

1. The establishment of the authority is in all respects for the benefit of the people of the state of Iowa, for the improvement of their health and welfare and for the promotion of the economy, which are public purposes.
2. The authority will be performing an essential governmental function in the exercise of the powers and duties conferred upon it by this chapter.
3. There exists a serious problem in this state regarding the ability of nonestablished farmers to acquire agricultural land and agricultural improvements and depreciable agricultural property in order to enter farming.
4. This barrier to entry into farming is conducive to consolidation of acreage of agricultural land with fewer individuals resulting in a grave threat to the traditional family farm.
5. These conditions result in a loss in population, unemployment and a movement of persons from rural communities to urban areas accompanied by added costs to communities for creation of new public facilities and services.
6. One major cause of this condition has been recurrent shortages of funds in private channels and the high interest cost of borrowing.
7. These shortages and costs have made the sale and purchase of agricultural land to beginning farmers a virtual impossibility in many parts of the state.
8. The ordinary operations of private enterprise have not in the past corrected these conditions.
9. A stable supply of adequate funds for agricultural financing is required to encourage beginning farmers in an orderly and sustained manner and to reduce the problems described in this section.
10. Article IX, section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Iowa requires that, "The General Assembly shall encourage, by all suitable means, the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral, and agricultural improvement," and agricultural improvement and the public good are served by a policy of facilitating access to capital by beginning farmers unable to obtain capital elsewhere in order to preserve, encourage and protect the family farm which has been the economic, political and social backbone of rural Iowa.
11. It is necessary to create an agricultural development authority to encourage ownership of farms by beginning farmers by providing purchase money loans to beginning farmers who are not able to obtain adequate capital elsewhere to provide such funds and to lower costs through the use of public financing.
12. All of the purposes stated in this section are public purposes and uses for which public moneys may be borrowed, expended, advanced, loaned or granted.
13. The erosion of topsoil on agricultural land by wind and water is a serious problem within the state and one which threatens to destroy the natural resource most responsible for Iowa's prosperity.
14. It is necessary to the preservation of the economy and well-being of the state to encourage soil conservation practices by providing loans for permanent soil and water conservation practices on agricultural land within the state and for the acquisition of conservation farm equipment.
15. There exists a serious problem in this state regarding the ability of farmers to obtain affordable operating

loans for reasonable and necessary expenses and cash flow requirements of farming.

16. Farming is one of the principal pursuits of the inhabitants of this state. Many other industries and pursuits, in turn, are wholly dependent upon farming.

17. The inability of farmers to obtain affordable operating loans is conducive to a general decline of the economy in this state.

18. It is necessary to establish an agricultural loan assistance program in this state to assist farmers in obtaining adequate financing at affordable rates for operating expenses and thereby assist in the stabilization of the economic condition of this state.

19. A serious problem continues to exist in this state regarding the ability of agricultural producers to obtain, retain, restructure, or service loans or other financing on a reasonable and affordable basis for operating expenses, cash flow requirements, and capital asset acquisition or maintenance.

20. Because the Iowa economy is dependent upon the production and marketing of agricultural produce, the inability of agricultural producers to obtain, retain, restructure, or service loans or other financing on a reasonable and an affordable basis for operating expenses, cash flow requirements, or capital asset acquisition or maintenance contributes to a general decline of the state's economy.

21. The decline in the number of beef cattle production operations is a serious problem within the state, resulting in the conversion of land used for pasture to row crop production, which threatens to destroy a significant part of Iowa's agricultural base and damage the economic viability of the state.

22. It is necessary to create a program in this state to assist agricultural producers who have established or intend to establish beef cattle production operations, to obtain adequate financing, and management assistance and training, and to convert land used for row crop production to pasture.

[C81, § 175.4; 82 Acts, ch 1243, § 4]

86 Acts, ch 1027, § 3; 87 Acts, ch 52, § 2; 87 Acts, ch 169, § 2