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SENATE FILE 314
BY LUNDBY

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing the senior conservation and outdoor
2 recreation employment program under the administration of the
3 department of workforce development and providing for a
4 related matter.

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

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S.F. 314

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 84A.7A SENIOR CONSERVATION AND
2 OUTDOOR RECREATION EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

3 1. Subject to an appropriation of sufficient funds by the
4 general assembly, the senior conservation and outdoor
5 recreation employment program is established for the
6 employment of individuals age sixty years or older by county
7 conservation boards to further conservation efforts, enhance
8 this state's natural resources, and assist environmental
9 education and outdoor recreation programs.

10 2. The department of workforce development shall
11 administer the senior conservation and outdoor recreation
12 employment program and shall adopt rules governing operation
13 of the program and eligibility guidelines for county
14 participation and grant criteria.

15 3. Funds appropriated by the general assembly for each
16 fiscal year for purposes of this section shall be allocated as
17 follows:

18 a. Fifty percent of the moneys appropriated shall be
19 allocated to this state's county conservation boards and
20 distributed on a per capita basis.

21 b. Fifty percent of the moneys appropriated shall be
22 awarded on a competitive grant basis. A county conservation
23 board may apply to the department for a competitive grant on
24 forms provided by the department. The completed application
25 shall be accompanied by a plan for the employment of persons
26 age sixty years or older in meaningful, productive, and
27 healthy public service jobs developed by the county
28 conservation board. A county conservation board submitting an
29 application for a competitive grant under this section shall
30 agree to pay each individual employed under a senior
31 conservation and outdoor recreation employment program
32 implemented by the county conservation board a wage that meets
33 or exceeds the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is
34 greater. A county applying for a grant under this section is
35 encouraged to seek additional assistance and resources from

1 other state departments and agencies, federal agencies and
2 grant programs, private organizations, and any other person,
3 as appropriate, in order to match state funds received under
4 this section.

5 Sec. 2. Section 455A.11, Code 1997, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 455A.11 PREFERENCES IN TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT.

8 In its employment of persons in temporary positions in
9 conservation and outdoor recreation, the department of natural
10 resources shall give preference to persons meeting eligibility
11 requirements for the green-thumb senior conservation and
12 outdoor recreation employment program under section 15-227
13 84A.7A and to persons working toward an advanced education in
14 natural resources and conservation.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill establishes, subject to an appropriation of
17 sufficient funds by the general assembly, the senior
18 conservation and outdoor recreation employment program for the
19 employment of individuals age 60 years or older by county
20 conservation boards to further conservation efforts, enhance
21 this state's natural resources, and assist environmental
22 education and outdoor recreation programs.

23 The department of workforce development is responsible for
24 administering the program and for establishing eligibility
25 guidelines for county participation and grant criteria.

26 Fifty percent of any funds appropriated by the general
27 assembly shall be allocated to county conservation boards on a
28 per capita basis, and 50 percent on a competitive grant basis.

29 A county conservation board applying for a competitive
30 grant must submit to the department a plan for the employment
31 of persons age 60 years or older in meaningful, productive,
32 and healthy public service jobs and must agree to pay each
33 person employed under the program a wage that meets or exceeds
34 the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is greater.

35 The bill also directs the department of natural resources

1 to give employment preference for temporary positions in
2 conservation and outdoor recreation to persons meeting
3 eligibility requirements for this program by replacing a
4 reference to the green thumb program, which no longer exists,
5 with a reference to the senior conservation and outdoor
6 recreation employment program.

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