

MAR 3 1999

Agriculture

HOUSE FILE
BY FORD

495

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the department of agriculture and land
2 stewardship to publicize the availability of programs
3 assisting women and minority residents.

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

5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HF 495

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 159.18 WOMEN AND MINORITY
2 PERSONS.

3 1. As used in this section:

4 a. "Farm program" means any program that is administered
5 by or under the authority of the department that provides
6 financial assistance to farmers, including but not limited to
7 all of the following:

8 (1) Financial incentive programs established within the
9 division of soil conservation as provided in section 161A.70.

10 (2) Financial assistance programs administered by the
11 agricultural development authority that assist farmers in
12 purchasing agricultural land and agricultural improvements and
13 depreciable agricultural property for the purpose of farming
14 as provided in chapter 175.

15 b. "Internet" means the federated network of networks,
16 including the national research and education network, whose
17 standards are regulated by the internet architecture board.

18 c. "Internet site" means the internet address where
19 information is presented in an electronic format accessible by
20 using a personal computer, including information contained in
21 documents accessible from a home page file.

22 d. "Minority person" means the same as defined in section
23 15.102.

24 2. The department shall publicize the availability of farm
25 programs to women and minority persons. The department may
26 publicize the availability of the farm programs by
27 broadcasting or publishing information explaining its programs
28 and eligibility requirements. The information shall state
29 that departmental programs are available to all persons
30 regardless of race, gender, creed, national origin, age, or
31 religion. The department shall disseminate the information by
32 publishing all of the following:

33 a. Printed brochures for distribution to locations and
34 institutions serving farmers, including departmental offices,
35 financial institutions participating in farm programs, and

1 soil and water conservation district offices.

2 b. Electronic information presented on an internet site
3 where the department regularly presents information regarding
4 itself, its functions, and farm programs.

5 3. The department shall cooperate with private
6 institutions and public agencies in order to carry out this
7 section, including the department of economic development and
8 the United States department of agriculture. The department
9 of economic development shall provide information regarding
10 farm programs on an internet site where the department of
11 economic development regularly presents information regarding
12 the department, its functions, and its programs.

13 EXPLANATION

14 This bill amends Code chapter 159, which provides for
15 powers and duties of the department of agriculture and land
16 stewardship. The bill creates a new Code section 159.18 that
17 requires the department to publicize the availability of farm
18 programs under the department's jurisdiction to women and
19 minority persons. The bill provides that the department may
20 publicize the availability of the farm programs by
21 broadcasting or publication. The bill requires that the
22 information state that farm programs are available to all
23 persons regardless of race, gender, creed, national origin,
24 age, or religion. The bill requires the department to
25 disseminate the information by publishing printed brochures
26 and electronic information presented on its internet site.
27 The bill requires the department to cooperate with private
28 institutions and public agencies, including the United States
29 department of agriculture and the department of economic
30 development. The bill requires the department of economic
31 development to provide information regarding farm programs on
32 its internet site.

33

34

35