

JAN 13 1999
NATURAL RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 63
BY THOMAS

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to forestry and forest resource support and
2 making appropriations.

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

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HF 63

1 Section 1. FINDINGS. The general assembly finds that due
2 to an inadequate number of department of natural resources'
3 forestry staff, an extensive backlog of requests for forester
4 assistance exists; that a substantial number of unfunded
5 timber management cost share project requests have been made;
6 that an inadequate amount of timber stand improvement has been
7 completed; that current and future woodland owners exhibit a
8 general lack of timber management education; that turnover of
9 woodland owners will significantly increase in the next twenty
10 years; that managed timberland in Iowa could produce three
11 times more volume in half the time with improved information
12 and education; and that due to the long time frame for timber
13 development, many landowners are unable to invest abundant
14 personal finances in timber development.

15 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 456A.38 FORESTRY APPROPRIATIONS.

16 1. One million dollars is appropriated from the general
17 fund of the state to the department of natural resources for
18 each fiscal year of the fiscal period beginning July 1, 1999,
19 and ending June 30, 2020, for a cost-share program to provide
20 private landowners with incentives to implement practices with
21 long-term woodland enhancement potential, including
22 reforestation, tree planting, timber stand improvement, and
23 fencing to protect woodlands from grazing.

24 2. Four hundred seventy-five thousand dollars is
25 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
26 department of natural resources for each fiscal year of the
27 fiscal period beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30,
28 2020, for the salaries and support of one media professional
29 to promote, educate, and improve communication relating to
30 forestry, two foresters, and five forestry technicians within
31 the forests and forestry division of the department of natural
32 resources.

33 3. Twenty-five thousand dollars is appropriated from the
34 general fund of the state to the department of natural
35 resources for each fiscal year of the fiscal period beginning

1 July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2020, for the development
2 and distribution of educational materials designed to promote
3 and improve education regarding proper timber conservation and
4 timber management practices.

5 4. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in
6 this section which remain unexpended or unobligated at the end
7 of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of
8 the state but shall remain available for expenditure for the
9 same purposes in the succeeding fiscal year.

10 EXPLANATION

11 This bill relates to forestry resource support. The bill
12 makes a number of findings relating to the current status of
13 forestry and forestry services and resource support in the
14 state. The bill annually appropriates \$1,500,000 in total
15 from the general fund of the state to the department of
16 natural resources for each fiscal year of the fiscal period
17 beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2020. For a cost-
18 share program aimed at providing private landowners with
19 incentives to implement practices which have long-term
20 enhancement potential, \$1,000,000 is appropriated annually.
21 For a media professional, two foresters, and five forestry
22 technicians, \$475,000 is appropriated annually. For the
23 development and distribution of educational materials designed
24 to promote and improve education regarding proper timber
25 conservation and timber management practices, \$25,000 is
26 appropriated annually. Moneys which remain unexpended or
27 unobligated on June 30 of each fiscal year shall not revert
28 and shall remain available for expenditure for the same
29 purposes in the succeeding fiscal year.

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**HOUSE FILE 63
FISCAL NOTE**

A fiscal note for House File 63 is hereby submitted pursuant to Joint Rule 17. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

House File 63 increases the support of forestry services in the State by providing funds for increased staff levels in the Forestry Division and for implementation of a cost share program.

BACKGROUND

The Forestry Division in the Department of Natural Resources receives and processes approximately 3,000 on site requests per year for forestry assistance and general information on timber management.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. House File 63 will require the Forestry Division of the Department of Natural Resources to expand services over current levels. Increased services will require an additional 8.00 FTE positions. The Forestry Division currently spends \$835,000 per year with a total of 13.00 FTE positions on Forestry Assistance. Cost share funds are available through the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Fund at the State level. Federal programs offering cost share funds include Forestry Incentives Program (FIP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).
2. The increased service level will require eight additional computers and eight additional vehicles. Also, additional funding will be needed for administrative support, and media expense.
3. State funding for the cost share program will be \$1.0 million. The cost share program would reimburse landowners for a percentage of incurred costs for completing approved projects.
4. The Forestry Division will handle an additional \$1,500 to 2,000 requests annually.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact of House File 63 is estimated to cost the State General Fund \$1.6 million for FY 2000 and \$1.5 million annually, each year thereafter.

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Expenditure Breakdown:

	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2001</u>
Salary/Benefits	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000
1.00 FTE Media Position (\$55,000)		
2.00 FTE Forester Positions (\$110,000)		
5.00 FTE Forestry Technician Positions (\$175,000)		
Office Equipment/Supplies	8,000	45,000
Computer Equipment	24,000	8,000
Travel	0	12,000
Vehicle Expense	160,000	70,000
Media Expense	25,000	25,000
State Program Cost Share	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total	<u>\$1,557,000</u>	<u>\$1,500,000</u>

SOURCE

Department of Natural Resources

(LSB 1040hh, DFK)

FILED FEBRUARY 1, 1999

BY DENNIS PROUTY, FISCAL DIRECTOR