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SENATE FILE 148

BY ANGELO, JUDGE, and
MILLER

(COMPANION TO HF 208
BY ARNOLD)

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a southern Iowa development and conservation
2 authority, specifying membership, powers, and duties, creating
3 a southern Iowa development and conservation fund, and
4 providing for other properly related matters.

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

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SF 148
NAT. RES. & ENVIRONMENT

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 161D.11 SOUTHERN IOWA
2 DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY CREATED -- MEMBERSHIP
3 AND DUTIES.

4 1. A southern Iowa development and conservation authority
5 is created. The counties of Appanoose, Clarke, Davis,
6 Decatur, Jefferson, Lucas, Monroe, Van Buren, Wapello, and
7 Wayne are entitled to one voting member each on the authority,
8 but membership or participation in projects of the authority
9 is not required. Each member of the authority shall be
10 appointed by the respective board of supervisors for a term to
11 be determined by each board of supervisors, but the term shall
12 not be for less than one year. An appointee shall serve
13 without compensation, but an appointee may be reimbursed for
14 actual expenses incurred while performing the duties of the
15 authority as determined by each board of supervisors. The
16 authority shall meet, organize, and adopt rules of procedures
17 as deemed necessary to carry out its duties. The authority
18 may appoint working committees that include other individuals
19 in addition to voting members.

20 2. The mission of the authority is to develop and
21 coordinate plans for projects related to the unique natural
22 resources, rural development, and infrastructure problems of
23 counties in the most fragile areas of the southern Iowa drift
24 plain. The authority's mission is established in part as a
25 response to the erosion of soils, degradation of water
26 resources, and the destabilization of stream channels in the
27 fragile glacial till soils of southern Iowa that have occurred
28 in a large part due to unchecked conversion of grassland to
29 cropland. This land use conversion was brought about by the
30 economic pressures of past federal agricultural policies that
31 disregarded the fragile nature of the southern Iowa soil
32 resource and the incompatibility of these soils with the
33 subsidized commodities. The resulting erosion of the land has
34 damaged the rural infrastructure of this area, destroyed
35 public roads and bridges, adversely impacted stream water

1 quality and riparian habitat, affected other public and
2 private improvements, and severely threatens the potable water
3 supply of the region. Reducing soil erosion, preventing
4 sedimentation, and stopping nutrients and pesticides from
5 entering water resources are all necessary to protect the
6 rural infrastructure in the southern area of the state.
7 Important protection measures include structural improvements
8 and the reestablishment of grasslands for sustainable economic
9 uses.

10 3. The authority shall cooperate with the division of soil
11 conservation of the department of agriculture and land
12 stewardship, the affected soil and water conservation
13 districts, the department of natural resources, and the state
14 department of transportation in carrying out its mission and
15 duties. The authority shall also cooperate with appropriate
16 federal agencies, including the United States environmental
17 protection agency, the United States department of interior,
18 and the United States department of agriculture natural
19 resources conservation service. The authority shall make use
20 of technical resources available through member counties and
21 cooperating agencies.

22 4. The authority shall administer the southern Iowa
23 development and conservation fund created under section
24 161D.12 and shall deposit and expend moneys in the fund for
25 the planning, development, and implementation of development
26 and conservation activities or measures in the member
27 counties.

28 5. This section is not intended to affect the authority of
29 the department of natural resources in its acquisition,
30 development, and management of public lands within the
31 counties represented by the authority.

32 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 161D.12 SOUTHERN IOWA DEVELOPMENT
33 AND CONSERVATION FUND.

34 A southern Iowa development and conservation fund is
35 created in the state treasury, to be administered by the

1 southern Iowa development and conservation authority. The
2 proceeds of the fund shall be used for the purposes specified
3 in section 161D.11. The southern Iowa development and
4 conservation authority may accept gifts, bequests, other
5 moneys including, but not limited to, state or federal moneys,
6 and in-kind contributions for deposit in the fund. The gifts,
7 grants, bequests from public and private sources, state and
8 federal moneys, and other moneys received by the authority
9 shall be deposited in the fund and any interest earned on
10 moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund to be used
11 for the purposes specified in section 161D.11.
12 Notwithstanding section 8.33, any unexpended or unencumbered
13 moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year
14 shall not revert to the general fund of the state, but the
15 moneys shall remain available for expenditure by the authority
16 in succeeding fiscal years.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill establishes a southern Iowa development and
19 conservation authority which includes the counties of
20 Appanoose, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Jefferson, Lucas, Monroe,
21 Van Buren, Wapello, and Wayne. The bill provides that each
22 county is entitled to a voting member on the authority, but
23 membership or participation in projects of the authority is
24 not required. The bill provides that the mission of the
25 authority is to develop and coordinate plans for projects
26 related to the unique natural resources, rural development,
27 and infrastructure problems of counties in the most fragile
28 areas of the southern Iowa drift plain. The bill provides for
29 the authority to cooperate with various local, state, and
30 federal entities in carrying out the duties of the authority.
31 The bill provides that the authority of the department of
32 natural resources to acquire, develop, and manage public lands
33 within the counties represented by the southern Iowa
34 development and conservation authority is not affected by this
35 legislation.

1 The bill creates a southern Iowa development and
2 conservation fund which is to be administered by the
3 authority. The fund shall be used by the authority for
4 planning, development, and implementation of development and
5 conservation activities or measures in the member counties.

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