

MAR 12 2003
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HOUSE FILE 508
BY RAYHONS

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a moratorium on the restoration, construction,
2 and expansion of wetlands, directing a study, and providing an
3 effective date.

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

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HF 508

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 466.5A CONSTRUCTION OF WETLANDS
2 -- MORATORIUM -- STUDY.

3 Notwithstanding section 466.5, no wetlands shall be
4 restored, constructed, or expanded in this state during the
5 period beginning April 1, 2003, and ending April 1, 2004.
6 During this period of time, the department of natural
7 resources, in cooperation with the Iowa department of public
8 health, shall conduct a study that evaluates whether the
9 establishment of additional acres of wetlands in the state
10 increases the risk of transmission of west Nile virus to
11 people and animals in the state. The study shall also include
12 information concerning where virus outbreaks have occurred in
13 the state, where virus outbreaks have occurred in the state in
14 relation to the location of existing or planned wetlands, how
15 and where the virus might spread, and how the risk of
16 transmission might be reduced. The department of natural
17 resources and the Iowa department of public health shall file
18 a joint report containing their findings and recommendations
19 with the legislative service bureau by March 1, 2004, for
20 distribution to the general assembly.

21 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of
22 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

23 EXPLANATION

24 This bill creates a moratorium on the restoration,
25 construction, or expansion of wetlands in this state for the
26 period from April 1, 2003, to April 1, 2004, notwithstanding
27 Code section 466.5, which has a stated five-year goal of
28 establishing an additional 32,500 acres of wetlands in the
29 state beginning in 2000.

30 The bill provides that during the moratorium, the
31 department of natural resources, in cooperation with the Iowa
32 department of public health, shall conduct a study that
33 evaluates whether the establishment of additional acres of
34 wetlands in the state increases the risk of transmission of
35 west Nile virus to people and animals in the state. The bill

1 provides that the study should include information concerning
2 where virus outbreaks have occurred in the state, where virus
3 outbreaks have occurred in the state in relation to the
4 location of existing or planned wetlands, how and where the
5 virus might spread, and how the risk of transmission might be
6 reduced.

7 The bill provides that the department of natural resources
8 and the Iowa department of public health shall file a joint
9 report containing their findings and recommendations with the
10 legislative service bureau by March 1, 2004, for distribution
11 to the general assembly.

12 The bill contains an immediate effective date.

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