

**House File 556 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 556

BY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 209)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act creating a committee to provide for greater  
2 collaboration between urban and rural communities.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. URBAN-RURAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE.

2 1. An urban-rural dialogue committee is established to  
3 improve urban, including suburban, and rural communities in  
4 this state by providing for collaborative efforts.

5 2. The committee shall study existing programs administered  
6 by state agencies which benefit one community, but which  
7 could be revised or administered differently to benefit both  
8 communities. The committee shall also study methods to improve  
9 awareness, understanding, and communication between urban and  
10 rural communities, including but not limited to how soil and  
11 water conservation practices, pollution control measures, and  
12 flood control measures may be better implemented by urban  
13 residents.

14 3. The committee shall be chaired by the secretary of  
15 agriculture or a designee. The committee shall also include  
16 the following members:

17 a. The director of the department of natural resources, or  
18 the director's designee.

19 b. The president of Iowa state university or the president's  
20 designee.

21 c. Three persons appointed by the secretary of agriculture  
22 who are rural residents, including two persons who are actively  
23 engaged in farming.

24 d. Two persons appointed by the secretary of agriculture who  
25 are urban residents.

26 4. A public member is entitled to receive reimbursement for  
27 actual expenses incurred while engaged in the performance of  
28 official duties under this section. However, a member of the  
29 committee is not eligible to receive compensation as provided  
30 in section 7E.6.

31 5. The committee shall submit a report to the general  
32 assembly not later than January 1, 2012. The report shall  
33 include findings and recommendations, including proposals for  
34 legislation and administrative rules.

35

EXPLANATION

H.F. 556

1 The bill establishes an urban-rural dialogue committee to  
2 improve urban, including suburban, and rural communities by  
3 providing for collaborative efforts, including by reviewing  
4 existing programs administered by state agencies and by  
5 studying methods to improve awareness, understanding, and  
6 communication between the communities. The committee includes  
7 state agency representatives, including the department of  
8 agriculture and land stewardship, the department of natural  
9 resources, and Iowa state university, and public members  
10 representing urban and rural communities. The committee must  
11 submit a report to the general assembly by January 1, 2012.