

**House File 316 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 316

BY KELLEY

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act appropriating moneys to support soil and water
- 2 conservation districts in this state, by funding secretary
- 3 positions assigned to each district office.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS —  
2 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund of  
3 the state to the department of agriculture and land stewardship  
4 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30,  
5 2016, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary,  
6 to be used for the purposes designated:

- 7 1. For purposes of supporting soil and water conservation
- 8 districts in this state as provided in chapter 161A:
- 9 ..... \$ 6,700,000
- 10 ..... FTEs 100.00

11 2. The appropriation made in subsection 1 shall be used to  
12 fund salaries, support, and maintenance of one full-time field  
13 office secretary I position in each soil and water conservation  
14 district office.

15 EXPLANATION

16 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
17 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

18 There are 100 soil and water conservation districts  
19 organized in this state, one located in each county except for  
20 Pottawattamie county which maintains two districts. A soil  
21 conservation district is associated with local governments,  
22 state government, and the federal government, including locally  
23 elected district commissioners (Code section 161A.5), a state  
24 soil conservation committee and soil conservation division  
25 established within the department of agriculture and land  
26 stewardship (DALs) (Code section 161A.4), and the national  
27 resource conservation service (NRCS) a subagency of the United  
28 States department of agriculture. District offices are staffed  
29 by an NRCS employee and sometimes a secretary employed by the  
30 DALs. This bill appropriates moneys to DALs for FY 2015-2016  
31 and requires that the agency support each district office by  
32 employing one full-time secretary.