House File 481 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 481 BY KELLEY

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act establishing a program to promote habitat for
- 2 pollinators, including honey bees.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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- 1 Section 1. Section 160.2, Code 2015, is amended by adding
- 2 the following new subsection:
- 3 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. Cooperate with the department of natural
- 4 resources in administering the honey bee habitat program as
- 5 provided in section 461A.91.
- 6 Sec. 2. Section 457A.1, Code 2015, is amended to read as
- 7 follows:
- 8 457A.1 Acquisition by other than condemnation.
- 9 The department of natural resources, soil and water
- 10 conservation districts as provided in chapter 161A, the
- 11 historical division of the department of cultural affairs, the
- 12 state archaeologist appointed by the state board of regents
- 13 pursuant to section 263B.1, any county conservation board, and
- 14 any city or agency of a city may acquire by purchase, gift,
- 15 contract, or other voluntary means, but not by eminent domain,
- 16 conservation easements in land to preserve scenic beauty,
- 17 wildlife habitat, riparian lands, wetlands, or forests; promote
- 18 outdoor recreation, agriculture, soil or water conservation,
- 19 or open space; provide enhanced honey bee and other pollinator
- 20 habitat; or otherwise conserve for the benefit of the public
- 21 the natural beauty, natural and cultural resources, and public
- 22 recreation facilities of the state.
- 23 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 461A.91 Honey bee habitat program.
- 24 1. A honey bee habitat program is created within the
- 25 department.
- 26 2. The purpose of the program is to support projects to
- 27 restore and enhance honey bee and other pollinator habitat on
- 28 land located in state parks, state recreation areas, state game
- 29 and forest areas, state preserves, and other lands under the
- 30 jurisdiction of the department.
- 31 3. In administering the program, the department may do all
- 32 of the following:
- 33 a. Evaluate the land to determine its suitability for
- 34 habitat, the improvement of habitat, and best practices to
- 35 provide safe and diverse food sources for honey bees and other

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- 1 pollinators.
- 2 b. Receive and expend moneys awarded by the federal
- 3 government or by any other public or private agency.
- 4 c. Cooperate with interested public or private entities,
- 5 including the United States department of agriculture, and the
- 6 department of agriculture and land stewardship.
- 7 EXPLANATION
- 8 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with 9 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 10 This bill provides for the promotion of honey bees and other
- 11 pollinators (e.g., butterflies and hummingbirds), by promoting
- 12 the restoration and enhancement of their habitat. The bill
- 13 creates a honey bee habitat program within the department
- 14 of natural resources. The department must support habitat
- 15 projects on land located in state parks, state recreation
- 16 areas, state game and forest areas, state preserves, and other
- 17 lands under the jurisdiction of the department (Code chapter
- 18 461A). The state apiarist created within the department of
- 19 agriculture and land stewardship must cooperate with the
- 20 department of natural resources in administering the program.
- 21 Finally, the bill provides that land dedicated to honey bee
- 22 or other pollinator habitat may be reserved as a conservation
- 23 easement (Code chapter 457A).