

House File 531 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 531

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act making an appropriation to the department of natural
2 resources to support watershed projects administered by
3 watershed management authorities.

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

1 Section 1. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES —
2 APPROPRIATION.

3 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state
4 to the department of natural resources for the fiscal year
5 beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016, the following
6 amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the
7 purposes designated:

8 For purposes of supporting watershed management authorities
9 created pursuant to section 466B.22 to administer special
10 projects:

11 \$ 4,000,000

12 2. A special project must provide for any of the following:

13 a. Maximizing soil and water holding capacity of soil from
14 precipitation.

15 b. Minimizing severe soil erosion and sand deposition
16 during floods.

17 c. Managing water runoff in uplands under saturated soil
18 moisture conditions.

19 d. Reducing and mitigating structural and nonstructural
20 flood damage.

21 e. Reducing pollutant loading in order to minimize the
22 presence of escherichia coli, nitrogen, and phosphorus in
23 waterways.

24 3. The department shall expend moneys appropriated in
25 subsection 1 by awarding grants to watershed management
26 authorities on a competitive basis. The department shall
27 consult with the department of agriculture and land stewardship
28 in establishing criteria in awarding such grants.

29 4. The department shall expend moneys appropriated in
30 subsection 1 to support a special project on a matching basis.
31 For every two dollars contributed by the state under this
32 section, one dollar must be contributed by a person other than
33 the state.

34 EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2 This bill appropriates moneys from the general fund of the
3 state to the department of natural resources for purposes of
4 supporting watershed management authorities in administering
5 special projects that maximize soil and water resources,
6 minimize erosion, manage water runoff, reduce flood damage,
7 and minimize the presence of escherichia coli, nitrites, and
8 phosphorus in waterways. The department is required to expend
9 the moneys on a competitive grant basis with a requirement that
10 for every \$2 of state moneys contributed \$1 must be contributed
11 from a nonstate source. The department must consult with the
12 department of agriculture and land stewardship in awarding the
13 grants.