

**Senate Study Bill 3149 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON SENG)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for an in-field watershed quality education  
2 pilot project.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. IN-FIELD WATERSHED QUALITY EDUCATION PILOT  
2 PROJECT — COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

3 1. The department of education shall establish a three-year  
4 in-field watershed quality education pilot project in  
5 cooperation with the Iowa association of community college  
6 trustees, Iowa state university of science and technology,  
7 the Iowa nutrient research center, and the division of soil  
8 conservation and water quality created within the department of  
9 agriculture and land stewardship.

10 2. Three community colleges selected by the department of  
11 education shall offer a special course or courses as a part of  
12 the curriculum for students pursuing careers in agriculture or  
13 natural resources. A course shall be designed for students  
14 to analyze crop fields with a corn-soybean rotation and  
15 assess, evaluate, or validate the impacts of practices that  
16 reduce soil erosion and sediment loss, optimize nitrogen and  
17 phosphorus application, and reduce the transport of sediment  
18 and nutrients to surface water from nonpoint sources in a  
19 cost-effective manner. The courses shall provide for hands-on  
20 participation by students seeking to be involved in existing or  
21 proposed watershed quality projects, including but not limited  
22 to projects that are part of the water quality initiative  
23 described in chapter 466B, subchapter IV. A student shall not  
24 participate in a project unless the owner of the land where  
25 the project is or may be established consents to the student's  
26 participation.

27 3. A selected community college shall transmit information  
28 regarding the effectiveness of the pilot project including  
29 any assessments, evaluations, or validations of specific  
30 practices, to Iowa state university of science and technology.  
31 The information, including aggregate data transmitted to the  
32 university, shall be available for public examination and  
33 copying under chapter 22. However, any information received  
34 by a community college and transmitted to the university that  
35 identifies a person holding a legal interest in agricultural

1 land, or specific agricultural land, shall be a confidential  
2 record under section 22.7. The university may designate  
3 another entity to receive, collect, and hold the information,  
4 which may include but is not limited to any of the following:

5 a. The Iowa nutrient research center, which shall receive,  
6 collect, and hold the information under chapter 466B,  
7 subchapter IV.

8 b. A person who has entered into a contract with the  
9 university pursuant to 2015 Iowa Acts, chapter 132, section 18,  
10 who shall receive, collect, and hold the information under that  
11 section.

12 4. The department of education and Iowa state university of  
13 science and technology shall jointly submit interim reports to  
14 the general assembly by March 1, 2017, and March 1, 2018, and  
15 a final report to the general assembly by March 1, 2019. The  
16 final report shall include findings and recommendations.

17

EXPLANATION

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

20 GENERAL. The bill requires the department of education to  
21 establish a three-year in-field watershed quality education  
22 pilot project in which three selected community colleges are  
23 to offer courses for students pursuing careers in agriculture  
24 or natural resources. Students would analyze crop fields and  
25 assess, evaluate, or validate the impacts of practices designed  
26 to reduce soil erosion and sediment loss, optimize nitrogen and  
27 phosphorus application, and reduce the transport of sediment  
28 and nutrients to surface water.

29 COOPERATION WITH INTERESTED PERSONS. In establishing  
30 the courses, the department of education would be required  
31 to cooperate with the Iowa association of community college  
32 trustees, Iowa state university of science and technology,  
33 the Iowa nutrient research center, and the division of soil  
34 conservation and water quality created within the department of  
35 agriculture and land stewardship.

1     INFORMATION. Information regarding the effectiveness of  
2 the pilot project, including any assessments, evaluations,  
3 or validations of specific practices would be transmitted to  
4 Iowa state university of science and technology or a person  
5 designated by the university. Information identifying a  
6 person holding a legal interest in agricultural land would be  
7 a confidential record.

8     REPORTS. The department of education and Iowa state  
9 university of science and technology would be required to  
10 submit interim reports to the governor and general assembly by  
11 March 1 of each year until March 1, 2019, when they must submit  
12 a final report.