

House File 2298 - Introduced

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BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for a statewide soil resource health and
2 recovery monitoring system.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 466B.51 Soil resource health and
2 recovery monitoring system.

3 1. The division in cooperation with the center shall
4 establish a statewide soil resource health and recovery
5 monitoring system that receives data regarding the continued
6 capacity of this state's soils to permanently sustain plant and
7 animal life. As part of the program, the division shall adopt
8 long-term objectives and short-term interim goals or benchmarks
9 on a statewide and regional basis.

10 2. The system shall provide for methods to measure, analyze,
11 and track all of the following:

12 a. A soil's nutrient retention capacity and a soil's
13 fertility.

14 b. The structure, stability, and compaction of a soil.

15 c. Soil depth and degrees of soil erosion.

16 d. The capacity of a soil to retain precipitation and its
17 capacity to filter the transport of nutrients.

18 e. A soil's habitat for earthworms and soil microbes.

19 f. The value of a soil to produce crops, and levels of
20 nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, sulfur, and calcium
21 present in a soil.

22 3. The division in cooperation with the center shall do all
23 of the following:

24 a. Evaluate its progress in administering the program to
25 ensure its long-term viability and improvement.

26 b. Collaborate with participating landowners. The division
27 may enter into maintenance agreements or easements with
28 participating landowners.

29 4. a. Beginning December 14, 2018, and each two years
30 after that date, the division in cooperation with the center
31 shall submit a soil resource health and recovery report to the
32 governor and general assembly.

33 b. The report shall provide a summary of the division's
34 activities, findings, and recommendations to sustain and
35 improve this state's soil resources, including methods to

1 assist in the recovery of soil health. The recommendation
2 shall include proposed legislation or administrative rules.

3 EXPLANATION

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

6 This bill requires the division of soil conservation
7 and water quality of the department of agriculture and land
8 stewardship, in cooperation with the Iowa nutrient research
9 center associated with Iowa state university of science and
10 technology, to establish a statewide soil resources health and
11 recovery monitoring system in order to measure, analyze, and
12 track soil health regarding the continued capacity of this
13 state's soils to permanently sustain plant and animal life.
14 The division and center must collaborate with participating
15 landowners. The division and center must submit a report to
16 the governor and general assembly each two years, beginning
17 December 14, 2018, that summarizes the division's activities,
18 findings, and recommendations.