

House File 724 - Introduced

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an agriculture climate adaptation advisory
2 task force and providing for an agriculture climate
3 adaptation report.

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

1 Section 1. AGRICULTURE CLIMATE ADAPTATION ADVISORY TASK
2 FORCE.

3 1. a. The general assembly expressly recognizes the
4 impact of climatic change on ecosystem processes that support
5 agricultural productivity, including an increase in the
6 frequency, duration, and intensity of floods and droughts,
7 pest infestations, and extreme temperatures that compromise
8 this state's soil, water resources, the health of crops and
9 livestock, and the health and well-being of human populations.
10 b. It is the objective of this state to reduce the impact of
11 factors associated with climatic change on ecosystem processes
12 that support agricultural productivity and adopt strategies to
13 ameliorate the effects of such climate change on a short-term
14 and long-term basis.

15 2. There is created an agriculture climate adaptation
16 advisory task force housed within the department of agriculture
17 and land stewardship.

18 a. The voting members of the task force shall include all
19 of the following:

20 (1) The secretary of agriculture or a designee appointed by
21 the secretary of agriculture.

22 (2) The director of the department of natural resources or a
23 designee appointed by the director.

24 (3) A person appointed by the president of the university of
25 northern Iowa who shall represent the Iowa center for energy
26 and environmental education.

27 (4) A person appointed by the president of Iowa state
28 university of science and technology who is associated with the
29 Iowa water center.

30 (5) A person appointed by the president of Iowa state
31 university of science and technology who is associated with the
32 college of agriculture and life sciences.

33 (6) A person appointed by the president of Iowa state
34 university of science and technology who is associated with
35 extension and outreach programs as part of the agriculture and

1 natural resources department.

2 (7) A person appointed by the president of the university of
3 Iowa who is associated with the Iowa flood center.

4 (8) A person appointed by the president of the university of
5 Iowa who is associated with the center for global and regional
6 environmental research.

7 (9) The director of the Leopold center or a designee
8 appointed by the director. The director or the director's
9 designee shall serve as the chairperson of the task force.

10 (10) (a) The following persons interested in agriculture
11 and the effects of climate change, or their designees, shall
12 be appointed by the governor:

13 (i) The chair of the Iowa chapter of the sierra club.

14 (ii) The executive director of the practical farmers of
15 Iowa.

16 (iii) The executive director of the women, food and
17 agriculture network.

18 (iv) The executive director to the Iowa organic
19 association.

20 (v) The president of the Iowa farmers union.

21 (vi) The executive director of the Izaak Walton league.

22 (vii) The executive director of the Iowa environmental
23 council.

24 (viii) The executive director of the center for rural
25 affairs.

26 (ix) The executive director of the Iowa interfaith power and
27 light.

28 (x) The president of the environmental law and policy
29 center.

30 (xi) The president of the Iowa farm bureau federation.

31 (xii) The president of the Iowa soybean association.

32 (xiii) The president of the Iowa corn growers association.

33 (xiv) The president of the Iowa pork producers.

34 (xv) The president of the Iowa poultry association.

35 (xvi) The president of the Iowa cattlemen's association.

1 (xvii) The chief executive officer of the Iowa agribusiness
2 association.

3 (b) Of the governor's appointees, at least nine must be
4 actively engaged in farming. Of those persons actively engaged
5 in farming, at least one must be a woman, at least one must
6 belong to an ethnic or racial minority group, one must be
7 engaged in pasture-based livestock production, and one must
8 have received a majority of the person's annual income from
9 agricultural production for less than five years.

10 b. The ex officio, nonvoting members of the task force shall
11 include all of the following:

12 (1) Two members of the senate. One senator shall be
13 appointed by the majority leader of the senate and one senator
14 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

15 (2) Two members of the house of representatives. One
16 member shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of
17 representatives and one member shall be appointed by the
18 minority leader of the house of representatives.

19 3. A majority of the voting members then appointed
20 constitutes a quorum, and the affirmative vote of a majority of
21 the voting members present is necessary for any action taken by
22 the task force, except that a lesser number of voting members
23 may adjourn a meeting.

24 4. A voting member appointed by the governor shall receive
25 actual expenses for their services. A member is not eligible
26 to receive compensation as provided in section 7E.6.

27 5. The appointments of voting members shall comply with the
28 political party affiliation and gender balance requirements of
29 sections 69.16 and 69.16A.

30 6. A vacancy in the membership shall not impair the right of
31 the task force to exercise all the rights and perform all the
32 duties of the task force.

33 7. The department of agriculture and land stewardship shall
34 provide office space, staff assistance, and necessary supplies
35 and equipment for the task force. Upon request, the task force

1 shall receive assistance from state and local governments and
2 other entities, including but not limited to the department
3 of agriculture and land stewardship, department of natural
4 resources, the university of Iowa, Iowa state university of
5 science and technology, and the university of northern Iowa.

6 8. The task force shall meet on a regular basis and at the
7 call of the chairperson or upon the written request to the
8 chairperson of five or more voting members.

9 9. In order to achieve the objective provided in subsection
10 1, the task force shall prepare an agriculture climate
11 adaptation report. The report shall do all of the following:

12 a. Identify factors and trends attributable to climate
13 change that are projected to impact ecosystem processes that
14 support agricultural productivity.

15 b. Identify and evaluate available methods and technologies
16 that are proven to assist in mitigating the effects of climate
17 change on such processes.

18 c. Respond in detail to findings regarding the cumulative
19 effects of climate change on human activities and natural
20 processes regarding agriculture as provided in Volume II of
21 the publication entitled "Impacts, Risks, and Adaption in the
22 United States Fourth National Climate Assessment" as prepared
23 by the U.S. global change research program, and published
24 pursuant to the U.S. Global Research Act of 1990, Pub. L. No.
25 101-606.

26 10. The report may address the degree to which actions
27 further achieve the objective provided in subsection 1,
28 including but not limited to all of the following:

29 a. Practices that are environmentally sustainable that do
30 any of the following:

31 (1) Promote the health and preservation of soils, including
32 but not limited to cover crops, no-till planting, ridge-till
33 planting, contouring, and contour strip-cropping.

34 (2) Reduce and control the use of phosphorus and fertilizers
35 or nutrients which may include selection and rotation of crops

1 and the planting of perennial plants

2 (3) Increase the use of pastures.

3 b. Practices that modify or manage the landscape, including
4 by the installation and maintenance of carbon sinks and carbon
5 sequestration systems; the establishment or restoration of
6 native prairies, wildlife or riparian habitats, wetlands, and
7 forests; and the production of alternative, specialty, and
8 perennial crops.

9 c. Methods to prevent or resist crop damage caused by
10 pathogens or pests, which may include the implementation of
11 integrated pest management practices or participation in
12 organic food production, including as provided in chapter 190C.

13 11. The report shall include recommendations necessary to
14 achieve the objective provided in subsection 1, including all
15 of the following:

16 a. Methods to provide technical and financial assistance
17 to agricultural producers seeking to improve agricultural
18 operations in a profitable, cost-effective, and timely manner.

19 b. Funding mechanisms that take into account all fiscal
20 matters related to implementing the report during the following
21 five-year period, including allocations to state agencies
22 responsible for administering actions recommended by the task
23 force.

24 c. Any proposed amendments to statutes or administrative
25 rules required to meet the objective provided in subsection 1.

26 12. Not later than December 13, 2019, the task force,
27 in cooperation with the department of agriculture and land
28 stewardship and the Leopold center, shall submit the report to
29 the governor and general assembly.

30 EXPLANATION

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

33 This bill provides that it is the objective of this state to
34 reduce the impact of factors associated with climatic change
35 on ecosystem processes that support agricultural productivity.

1 The bill establishes an agriculture climate adaptation task
2 force housed within the department of agriculture and land
3 stewardship and composed of voting members representing a
4 number of state agencies and private organizations interested
5 in agriculture and the environment. It also includes four
6 ex officio, nonvoting members of the general assembly. The
7 task force is charged to achieve the objective by preparing an
8 agriculture climate adaptation report (report). The purpose
9 of the report is to identify factors and trends attributable
10 to climate change that are projected to impact agricultural
11 productivity. The report must identify and evaluate available
12 methods and technologies to ameliorate the effects of climate
13 change on agriculture and include recommendations necessary to
14 achieve the objectives. The report must be submitted to the
15 governor and general assembly by December 13, 2019.