

**Senate File 181 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 181

BY BROWN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing a tree and forest advisory council.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 455A.14A Tree and forest advisory  
2 council.

3 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context  
4 otherwise requires, "council" means the Iowa tree and forest  
5 advisory council.

6 2. a. The council shall be organized with assistance from  
7 the department and shall be composed of thirteen voting members  
8 and one ex officio, nonvoting member as follows:

9 (1) The director or the director's designee, who shall serve  
10 as the ex officio, nonvoting member.

11 (2) Thirteen persons appointed by the natural resource  
12 commission, with one member representing each of the following  
13 organizations or industries:

14 (a) The northeast Iowa forestry advisory committee.

15 (b) Trees forever.

16 (c) The lumber industry whose member is actively engaged in  
17 the purchase of standing timber.

18 (d) The Iowa woodland owners association.

19 (e) The Iowa state university extension forester.

20 (f) The Iowa nut growers association.

21 (g) The Iowa natural heritage foundation.

22 (h) The Iowa urban tree council.

23 (i) The society of American foresters.

24 (j) The Iowa nursery and landscape association.

25 (k) Conservation districts of Iowa.

26 (l) The Iowa assessors association.

27 (m) The forestry industry whose member is actively  
28 employed in Iowa in private forest management or as a forestry  
29 consultant.

30 b. The director shall provide the natural resource  
31 commission with recommendations for nominations of prospective  
32 council members. The commission shall approve nominees at a  
33 regularly scheduled commission meeting.

34 c. The voting members of the council shall elect a  
35 chairperson at the first council meeting of each year. If the

1 chairperson position becomes vacant, the voting members of  
2 the council shall elect a new chairperson at the next council  
3 meeting who shall serve as the chairperson for the remainder  
4 of the year.

5 3. *a.* The term of a voting member of the council shall be  
6 three years.

7 *b.* A vacancy on the council shall be filled by a  
8 representative of the same organization or industry whose  
9 position has become vacant for the remainder of the original  
10 term.

11 *c.* A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum  
12 and the affirmative vote of a majority present is necessary for  
13 any action taken by the council, except that a lesser number  
14 may adjourn a meeting. A vacancy in the membership of the  
15 council does not impair the rights of a quorum to exercise all  
16 rights and perform all duties of the council.

17 *d.* The council shall meet as required, but at least  
18 twice each year. The council shall meet upon the call of the  
19 chairperson or upon written request of three members of the  
20 council. Written notice of the time and place of the meeting  
21 shall be given to each member.

22 4. The council shall advise and make recommendations to  
23 the department, the natural resource commission, the governor,  
24 the chairperson of the senate standing committee on natural  
25 resources and environment, and the chairperson of the house  
26 of representatives standing committee on natural resources on  
27 matters relating to tree and forest health, the organization  
28 of forestry services within the department, and legislation  
29 under consideration relating to forestry. Any recommendations  
30 shall be made at the regularly scheduled natural resource  
31 commission meeting in July of each year. The council shall  
32 research forestry issues that include but are not limited to  
33 the following:

34 *a.* Property tax exemptions related to forest reservations.

35 *b.* Organizational efficiencies to address threats to

1 forestry preservation in Iowa.

2     *c.* Developing a set of metrics for forest and tree  
3 stewardship that grows Iowa's tree canopy and addresses threats  
4 to forest preservation.

5     *d.* Potential sources of funding for the forestry bureau  
6 within the department and potential sources of forestry  
7 cost-share assistance for private landowners to encourage and  
8 support the health of Iowa's forests.

9

EXPLANATION

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

12     This bill creates a tree and forest advisory council.  
13 The council shall consist of the director of the department  
14 of natural resources or the director's designee and 13  
15 organization and industry representatives. The council  
16 shall meet at least twice each year and shall advise and  
17 make recommendations to the department, the commission,  
18 the governor, and the chairpersons of the senate standing  
19 committee on natural resource and environment and the house  
20 of representatives standing committee on natural resources  
21 on matters relating to tree and forest health and forestry  
22 services.