

House File 2004 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2004

BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a driftless area development and conservation
2 authority and fund.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 161D.14 Driftless area development
2 and conservation authority — membership and duties.

3 1. A driftless area development and conservation authority
4 is created. The counties of Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque,
5 Delaware, Fayette, Jackson, and Winneshiek are entitled to
6 one voting member each on the authority, but membership or
7 participation in projects of the authority is not required.
8 Each member of the authority shall be appointed by the
9 respective board of supervisors for a term to be determined by
10 each board of supervisors, but the term shall not be for less
11 than one year. An appointee shall serve without compensation,
12 but an appointee may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred
13 while performing the duties of the authority as determined by
14 each board of supervisors. The authority shall meet, organize,
15 and adopt rules of procedures as deemed necessary to carry out
16 its duties. The authority may appoint working committees that
17 include other individuals in addition to voting members.

18 2. The mission of the authority is to develop and
19 coordinate plans for projects related to the unique natural
20 resources, rural development, and infrastructure problems and
21 opportunities in the driftless region of northeast Iowa.

22 3. The authority shall cooperate with the department of
23 natural resources, the division of soil conservation and water
24 quality created within the department of agriculture and land
25 stewardship pursuant to section 159.5, the affected soil
26 and water conservation districts, any watershed management
27 authorities established within the authority's jurisdiction,
28 the Mississippi river parkway commission, and the state
29 department of transportation in carrying out the authority's
30 mission and duties. The authority shall also cooperate
31 with appropriate federal agencies, including the United
32 States environmental protection agency, the United States
33 department of the interior, and the United States department
34 of agriculture natural resources conservation service. The
35 authority shall make use of technical resources available

1 through member counties and cooperating agencies.

2 4. The authority shall administer the driftless area
3 development and conservation fund created under section
4 161D.15 and shall deposit and expend moneys in the fund for the
5 planning, development, and implementation of development and
6 conservation activities or measures in the member counties.

7 5. This section is not intended to affect the authority
8 of the department of natural resources in its acquisition,
9 development, and management of public lands within the counties
10 represented by the authority.

11 6. In matters relating to the conservation, preservation,
12 or development of the driftless area, state agencies shall
13 coordinate, cooperate, and consult with the driftless area
14 development and conservation authority and its associated
15 alliances.

16 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 161D.15 Driftless area development and
17 conservation fund.

18 A driftless area development and conservation fund is
19 created in the state treasury, to be administered by the
20 driftless area development and conservation authority. The
21 moneys in the fund are appropriated to the authority for the
22 purposes specified in section 161D.14 as applicable. The
23 driftless area development and conservation authority may
24 accept gifts, bequests, other moneys including but not limited
25 to state or federal moneys, and in-kind contributions for
26 deposit in the fund. The gifts, grants, bequests from public
27 and private sources, state and federal moneys, and other moneys
28 received by the authority shall be deposited in the fund and
29 notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, any interest
30 earned on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund
31 to be used for the purposes specified in section 161D.14.
32 Notwithstanding section 8.33, any unencumbered or unobligated
33 moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year
34 shall not revert but shall remain available for expenditure by
35 the authority in succeeding fiscal years.

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EXPLANATION

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

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4 This bill creates a driftless area development and
5 conservation authority and the driftless area development
6 and conservation fund. The authority shall be made up of no
7 more than one voting member from each county of Allamakee,
8 Clayton, Dubuque, Delaware, Fayette, Jackson, and Winneshiek,
9 but membership or participation in authority projects is not
10 required.

11 The mission of the authority is to develop and coordinate
12 plans for projects related to problems and opportunities in
13 the driftless region of northeast Iowa. The authority shall
14 cooperate with state and federal agencies and utilize the
15 technical resources from member counties and the cooperating
16 agencies.

17 The authority shall administer the driftless area
18 development and conservation fund, created by the bill
19 in the state treasury, for conservation activities in the
20 member counties. The bill does not affect the authority
21 of the department of natural resources over public lands
22 within the member counties. State agencies shall coordinate,
23 cooperate, and consult with the driftless area development and
24 conservation authority and its associated alliances for certain
25 matters relating to the driftless area.