

House File 448 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 448

BY JENEARY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act designating certain county flood mitigation activities
2 as an essential county purpose.

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

1 Section 1. Section 331.441, subsection 2, paragraph b,
2 subparagraph (20), Code 2023, is amended to read as follows:

3 (20) The construction, reconstruction, and improvement
4 of all waterways, and real and personal property, useful
5 for the protection or reclamation of property from floods
6 or high waters, and for the protection of property from
7 the effects of flood waters, including reconnection of
8 floodplains, wetland and oxbow lake restoration, the deepening,
9 widening, alteration, change, diversion, or other improvement
10 of watercourses, the construction of levees, embankments,
11 structures, impounding reservoirs, pumping stations or
12 conduits, and the establishment, improvement, and widening of
13 streets, avenues, boulevards, and alleys across and adjacent
14 to the project, as well as the development and beautification
15 of the banks and other areas adjacent to flood control
16 improvements.

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 This bill amends the portion of the definition of "essential
21 county purpose" relating to the protection of property from
22 floodwaters to include the reconnection of floodplains and
23 wetland and oxbow lake restoration.

24 Under Code chapter 331, a county board of supervisors may
25 generally contract indebtedness and approve the issuance of
26 general obligation bonds to carry out an essential county
27 purpose without approval by voters at an election, while the
28 issuance of general obligation bonds to carry out a general
29 county purpose generally requires approval by voters at an
30 election.