

**House Study Bill 83 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON JONES)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act designating certain county flood mitigation activities as  
2 an essential county purpose.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 331.441, subsection 2, paragraph b,  
2 subparagraph (20), Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 (20) The construction, reconstruction, and improvement of  
4 all waterways, and real and personal property, useful for  
5 the protection or reclamation of property from floods or  
6 high waters, and for the protection of property from the  
7 effects of ~~flood waters~~ floodwaters, 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 conduits,  
12 and the establishment, improvement, and widening of streets,  
13 avenues, boulevards, and alleys across and adjacent to the  
14 project, as well as the development and beautification of the  
15 banks and other areas adjacent to flood control improvements.

16 EXPLANATION

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

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

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