

## A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEED GRAIN FOR  
SUFFERERS FROM GRASSHOPPER RAVAGES.

WHEREAS, During the summer of 1878 the wheat crop in Sioux, Lyon and other counties  
2 in the northwest part of the state of Iowa was seriously injured by blight, so that the market  
3 value of the same was diminished more than one-half; and,

4 WHEREAS, During the fall of the same year the grasshoppers deposited their eggs in  
5 immense quantities in aforesaid territory; and,

6 WHEREAS, In the spring of 1879 these eggs hatched out and covered said territory with  
7 young grasshoppers that preyed upon the growing crops and totally destroyed the wheat and  
8 other small grain, so that many farmers did not harvest a single bushel, and the very best  
9 did not get a quarter crop, and are now compelled to purchase wheat for bread or do with-  
10 out; and,

11 WHEREAS, Those who have been left destitute by this unforeseen and unavoidable combi-  
12 nation of adversities have no means left whereby they can procure seed grain for the coming  
13 spring; therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That the sum of  
2 fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same is  
3 hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the  
4 purchase of seed wheat for distribution to sufferers from grasshopper ravages, as hereinafter  
5 provided.

SEC. 2. For the purpose of ascertaining the amount of seed wheat required by each or any  
2 county in the northwestern part of the state so desolated, it shall be the duty of the county  
3 auditors of such county or counties to give immediate notice to the township clerks to post  
4 notices in at least three (3) of the most public places in each township, to all persons wishing  
5 to avail themselves of the benefits of this act, to meet at the county seat and file with the  
6 county auditor a sworn statement showing the condition of their property, both real and per-  
7 sonal, and whether incumbered by mortgage or otherwise.

SEC. 3. No applicant shall be entitled to receive any of the benefits of this act until after  
 2 first making affidavit before some officer residing in the same county, qualified to administer  
 3 oaths, that by reason of grasshopper ravages he or she is utterly unable, by an resource of  
 4 their own, to procure seed grain: which affidavit shall be attested by at least two (2) wit-  
 5 nesses residing in the same township with said applicant; and such application and affidavit  
 6 shall be filed in the office of the county auditor where such applicant resides, open to public  
 7 inspection: and any person found guilty of false swearing shall suffer all the pains and penal-  
 8 ties of perjury.

SEC. 4. The county auditor and board of supervisors in each county so devastated by grass-  
 2 hoppers are hereby appointed and constituted a board, to meet and examine each application  
 3 made, as provided for in sections two (2) and three (3) of this act, and to decide who are  
 4 justly entitled to receive the benefits under this act, and to forward to the governor a certified  
 5 list of such applications.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the board created by the foregoing section, to keep a correct  
 2 statement of the amount of seed furnished each person, the cost of the same per bushel,  
 3 together with a description of the land occupied by the said applicant, in a book to be used  
 4 for that purpose, and no other.

SEC. 6. Each and every person so receiving seed grain, shall affix his receipt for said grain  
 2 under the entry in said book. Said entry shall contain a statement that said sum is taxable  
 3 against the person receiving said grain, and against his property, and that, in consideration  
 4 of the grain so received, he will refund to the state the value thereof through the form of a  
 5 tax, to be levied and collected as provided in this act, which shall be explained to each  
 6 person receiving the same.

SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of the county auditors of the counties embraced in this act,  
 2 to cause to be assessed against the property of each and every person receiving seed wheat  
 3 under the provisions of this act, a sum equal to the cost of said grain. One-half of said sum  
 4 to be levied in each of the two years first following the receipt of said grain, and the sum so  
 5 assessed shall be a lien upon the crop of grain raised each year by the person receiving seed  
 6 grain under the provisions of this act until each year's tax is paid.

SEC. 8. In case of failure of crops by reason of grasshopper ravages, or other cause, then  
 2 the time of the payment of the tax herein provided for shall be extended, without interest  
 3 and penalty, from year to year, until the person receiving aid under the provisions of this  
 4 act shall have raised a crop of grain; but such person shall make affidavit to the fact of the  
 5 destruction of the crop, as provided in section three (3) of this act.

SEC. 9. The governor, upon receipt of lists of applicants, as provided in section four (4) of  
 2 this act, shall thereupon proceed to make distribution of the amount appropriated, giving to  
 3 each county a proportionate sum based upon the number of ~~applicants from such counties,~~

4 allowing to each such applicant an equal share of the appropriation: *provided*, no person shall  
 5 receive more than thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) of the amount thus appropriated for the purchase  
 6 of seed grain. In every case the county auditor and board of supervisors shall deliver to such  
 7 applicants seed grain, and not money; and it shall be the duty of said officers, whenever in  
 8 their judgment it shall be necessary, to require security of any applicant that he or she will  
 9 sow the seed grain so received by him or her.

SEC. 10. The governor shall issue to each county so devastated an order on the state  
 2 auditor for such amount of the appropriation as is provided for in section nine (9) of this act.  
 3 The state auditor shall thereupon draw his order on the state treasurer for that amount.

SEC. 11. It shall be the duty of the county board so constituted to draw the money from  
 2 the state treasurer on the warrant of the state auditor, and purchase such seed wheat neces-  
 3 sary to supply such applicants, and shall cause the same to be distributed in equal shares to  
 4 each applicant and take his receipt, as provided for in section five (5) of this act.

SEC. 12. It shall be the duty of the county auditor to have the certified list of applica-  
 2 tions sent to the governor on or before the first (1st) day of March, A. D. one thousand eight  
 3 hundred and eighty (1880).

SEC. 13. All moneys collected by the county treasurer of any county under the provisions  
 2 of this act shall be paid over to the state treasurer, together with the other taxes collected  
 3 for the state during that year.

SEC. 14. In case of any tax provided for under the provisions of this act being found to be  
 2 not collectible, then it shall be the duty of the county auditor, when such default occurs, to  
 3 assess sufficient tax against the taxable property of the county at large, to cover such default,  
 4 which amount shall be paid over to the state treasurer, as provided for in section thirteen  
 5 (13) of this act.

SEC. 15. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the  
 2 *Iowa State Register* and *Iowa State Leader*, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.