

A BILL

FOR AN ACT FOR THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF GOVERNMENT LAND CORNERS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. That boards of supervisors shall provide for the restoration of all lost government corners within their respective counties, and shall provide suitable stones or other lasting materials to mark the place of such corners, together with all government corners previously officially restored, and all government corners which can yet be identified *as such*.

SEC. 2. They shall employ the county surveyor or, for reason, other competent person (either by contract or otherwise), to do the work contemplated in the preceding section, and the surveyor when so employed shall, previous to entering upon the work of restoring lost corners, ascertain what corners have been heretofore officially restored and what corners can still be identified as original government corners, either by the marks and evidences left by the government surveyors or by the sworn testimony of reliable witnesses: *provided*, that stones or other corner marks which have stood unquestioned for a period of twenty years shall be taken for the true corners.

SEC. 3. In the restoration of lost corners the surveyor shall be governed strictly by the rules prescribed by acts of Congress as interpreted by court decisions pertaining to the restoration of lost corners under the system by which the original survey was made.

SEC. 4. He shall record in the manner now prescribed by law, the plats and field notes of all surveys for the restoration of lost corners, and shall also keep a record of all corners marked as to whether they were restored under the provisions of this act or had been previously officially restored or whether they were identified as the original government corners, either by the marks and evidences left by the government surveyors, or by the sworn testimony of reliable witnesses, and if by the latter, giving names and dates and an epitome of the evidence, and any other evidence by which the place of the corner was fixed upon, and in general shall note the facts and evidences by which the places of corners were fixed upon; and he shall transcribe such record into a substantial book to be furnished by the board of supervisors for that purpose, and all corners marked under the provisions of this act shall be held as presumptively the true corners which by the record they purport to be.

SEC. 5. For the purposes of this act, the corners along the north and west boundaries of counties shall be considered as belonging to the counties bordering on the north and west.

SEC. 6. Counties which have heretofore taken measures for the preservation of land corners shall be exempt from the provisions of this act so far as said measures correspond substantially with the provisions hereof.

SEC. 7. Boards of supervisors shall have a general supervision over the work contemplated in this act, and shall provide for the necessary expense of the same by levying a special tax not to exceed one-half of one mill annually until the work is completed.

SEC. 8. This act being deemed of immediate importance, shall be in force on and after its publication, etc.