

January 31, 1951.
Agriculture 2, Horticulture and Dairy.

House File 297
By PUTNEY, BUCK,
KLEMESRUD.

Passed House, Date
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Passed Senate, Date
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Approved

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend chapter one hundred seven (107), Code 1950,
to assign responsibility for the forestry program of the state
and to indicate the type of program which shall be followed.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. Chapter one hundred and seven (107), Code 1950,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following as a section thereto:
3 "It shall be the duty of the state conservation commission to
4 control, supervise, manage and operate all state forests and
5 woodland-reserve lands now owned and hereafter acquired by the
6 state and to provide and operate facilities for the proper
7 public use of the areas; to develop and execute a basically
8 sound, broad forestry program for the state; to cooperate with
9 public and private agencies in carrying out the forestry program;
10 to assist farmers, timberland owners, sawmill operators and
11 wood processors, at their request or with their consent, in
12 tree planting, woodland management, harvesting, processing,
13 marketing, protection and other forestry problems; and to
14 establish the necessary rules, regulations and policies to
15 attain the intent of this section.

16 Among other things the forestry activities should be
17 directed toward: (a) the best use and perpetuation of all
18 native and planted timberlands and woodlots on public and
19 private lands; (b) adequate woodland fire, insect and disease
20 protection; (c) the establishment of shelterbelts, and
21 windbreaks on farms; (d) the forestation of public and private
22 lands for erosion control, water conservation, flood control,
23 production of timber and for wildlife cover; (e) adequate
24 forestry research; (f) demonstrating the value of native
25 woodlands and plantations in producing forest crops, in
26 conserving soil and water, as wildlife cover and for other
27 purposes; (g) multiple-use of the state forests with major
28 emphasis on using them to demonstrate the value of the woodlands
29 and plantations for timber production; (h) providing limited
30 areas of woodland reserves as examples of natural tree growth
31 and for their historical interest; and (i) full utilization of
32 the forest crop.”

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 297

There are over two million acres of forests and woodlands in Iowa, 95 per cent of which are in a depleted and rundown condition because of grazing, improper harvesting practices, lack of management and lack of knowledge on the part of the timber owners—the farmers—of the value of their woods. It is estimated that there are between 650,000 and 1,000,000 acres of additional land in Iowa which is marginal or submarginal for other farm crops and which would be in better land-use if planted to trees. There are some 200,000 farms in need of new or improved windbreaks and field shelter belts. The woodlands of Iowa contribute immeasurably to the agricultural economy of the state and to soil conservation, watershed protection, reduction of flood hazards, wildlife cover, clearer streams and lakes, and recreational facilities. The forestry program of Iowa as now authorized is inadequate for a renewable natural resource which yielded 90 million board feet of sawn lumber and specialty logs plus other forest products having a total valuation of 18 million dollars in 1949. The volume growth in Iowa's woodlands can be tripled and the other benefits materially increased with the adoption and execution of strong forestry and tree planting programs and good management of the woods.