

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

House File 298
By PUTNEY and BUCK.

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

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend provisions of the laws of Iowa relative to forest reservations.

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

1 Section 1. Subparagraph one (1) of section one hundred
2 fifty-nine point six (159.6), Code 1950, is hereby amended by
3 striking the words "Forest and".

1 Sec. 2. Section one hundred seven point twenty-three
2 (107.23), Code 1950, is hereby amended by adding thereto the
3 following: "The state conservation commission shall enforce
4 the law relative to forest reservations", chapter 161.

1 Sec. 3. Section one hundred sixty-one point three (161.3),
2 Code 1950, is hereby amended by striking the comma (,) after
3 the word "grove" in line nine (9) thereof and adding "or an
4 area to be planted to trees," between the words "grove" and
5 "the" in said line; and further amended by changing the word
6 "less" to the word "more" and by changing the words "before
7 it can be" to the words "after it has been" in line fifteen
8 (15) thereof.

1 Sec. 4. Section one hundred sixty-one point five (161.5),

2 Code 1950, is hereby amended by inserting "cottonwood, soft
3 maple, osage orange, basswood, black locust" in line five (5)
4 thereof between the words "maple" and "European"; also by
5 striking the words "soft maple" and "cottonwood" from line
6 eleven (11) thereof; and further by striking the words "and
7 soft maple" in line twenty (20), thereof.

1 Sec. 5. Section one hundred sixty-one point six (161.6),
2 Code 1950, is hereby amended by striking the period in line
3 three (3) thereof and adding thereto the words "except when
4 the trees are growing or are planted in or along a gully or
5 ditch to control erosion in which case any width will qualify
6 provided the area meets the size requirement of two acres."

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 298

The State Department of Agriculture is now responsible for enforcing the laws pertaining to fruit-tree and forest reservations. It is more logical to have the agency which directs the forestry program of the state—the State Conservation Commission—responsible for enforcing the laws relating to forest reservations and to leave the responsibilities relative to fruit-tree reservations with the State Department of Agriculture. There is a need to encourage forestation of eroding and submarginal lands and classification of existing woodland areas as forest reservations, thus increasing the income to the farmers from the woods, conserving soil and water, protecting the watersheds, reducing flood hazards, and improving wildlife habitat. This can be done by changing the period allowed to qualify for the benefits provided by this chapter from two years *before* to two years *after* acceptance of an application. It is desirable to expand the list of trees **which qualify as forest trees to include other species which are now considered of value in the production of lumber, posts and other forest products.** It is also desirable to permit gully and erosion control plantings of any width to **qualify as forest reservations** provided they are two acres in size.