

JAN 29 2001

NATURAL RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 121
BY OSTERHAUS

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a program for hunting and
2 fur harvesting on United States department of agriculture
3 conservation reserve program land and related land.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 121

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 456B.15. MANAGEMENT ACCESS
2 PROGRAM FOR CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM LANDS.

3 1. The commission may establish a management access
4 program to apply to United States department of agriculture
5 conservation reserve program land and related land of
6 cooperating landowners. The purposes of the management access
7 program are to improve habitat for wildlife on the
8 conservation reserve program land and to provide public access
9 for walk-in hunting and fur harvesting on the land.

10 2. The commission may establish the management access
11 program for conservation reserve program land and related land
12 through the use of conservation easements which shall provide
13 one or more of the following management options and payments:

14 a. If the conservation reserve program land has a minimum
15 of two years remaining on its United States department of
16 agriculture contract and the owner agrees to administer two
17 diskings and legume interseeding on ten percent of the land
18 subject to the easement, the payment rate is five dollars per
19 acre annually. The landowner is responsible for the site
20 preparation, planting, and seed costs associated with this
21 option.

22 b. If the conservation reserve program land has a minimum
23 of two years remaining on its United States department of
24 agriculture contract and the owner agrees to one disking and
25 legume interseeding on ten percent of the land subject to the
26 conservation easement, the payment rate is four dollars per
27 acre annually. The landowner is responsible for the site
28 preparation, planting, and seed costs associated with this
29 option.

30 c. If the conservation reserve program land subject to the
31 conservation easement has been seeded or partially reseeded
32 within the preceding four years as required by the United
33 States department of agriculture conservation reserve program
34 contract, the payment rate is three dollars per acre annually.

35 d. If the conservation reserve program land subject to the

1 easement is excellent wildlife habitat without additional
2 habitat improvement as determined by the department, the
3 payment rate is one dollar per acre annually.

4 3. The commission may also extend the management access
5 program to agricultural land which is not under the United
6 States department of agriculture conservation reserve program
7 if the department finds that the agricultural lands provide
8 good quality wildlife habitat and the agricultural land is
9 associated with one or more conservation reserve program lands
10 subject to a management access program easement pursuant to
11 subsection 2. The payment rate for a conservation easement
12 under this subsection is one dollar per acre annually.

13 4. In addition to the requirements specified in
14 subsections 2 and 3, a landowner who enters into a
15 conservation easement for a management access program shall
16 agree to the following:

17 a. The land shall be open to walk-in hunting and trapping
18 access.

19 b. The land shall not be grazed or hayed.

20 c. Noxious weeds on the land shall be controlled manually
21 or by spot spraying only.

22 5. Chapter 461C shall apply to the land and the holders of
23 land which are subject to conservation easements for the
24 management access program established pursuant to this
25 section.

26 6. The department shall install and maintain access and
27 boundary signs on the management access program land.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill authorizes the natural resources commission to
30 establish a management access program for land which is under
31 contract as conservation reserve program (CRP) land with the
32 United States department of agriculture and for land not
33 within the conservation reserve program but associated with
34 the CRP land. The purposes of the management access program
35 are to provide walk-in access to private CRP land for hunters

1 and fur harvesters and to provide improved wildlife habitat on
2 the land.

3 If a management access program is established, there are
4 four management options and payments for CRP land and one
5 option and payment for agricultural land which is not under
6 contract as CRP land, but is associated with CRP land with a
7 management access program easement. If the CRP land has at
8 least two years remaining on its contract with the United
9 States department of agriculture and the owner agrees to
10 administer two diskings and legume interseeding on ten percent
11 of the land subject to the conservation easement, the payment
12 is \$5.00 per acre annually.

13 If the CRP land has at least two years remaining on its
14 contract with the United States department of agriculture and
15 the owner agrees to administer one disking and legume
16 interseeding on ten percent of the land subject to the
17 conservation easement, the payment is \$4.00 per acre annually.

18 If the CRP land subject to the conservation easement has
19 been seeded or partially reseeded within the preceding four
20 years as required by the CRP contract, the payment is \$3.00
21 per acre annually.

22 If the CRP land subject to the conservation easement is
23 excellent wildlife habitat without additional habitat
24 improvement as determined by the department, the payment is
25 \$1.00 per acre annually.

26 The commission may also offer the management access program
27 to agricultural land which is not under a CRP contract if the
28 department finds that the agricultural land provides good
29 quality wildlife habitat and the agricultural land is
30 associated with one or more CRP lands subject to a management
31 access program easement. The payment for the conservation
32 easement on the non-CRP land is \$1.00 per acre annually.

33 The management access program shall require that the land
34 subject to the conservation easement is open to walk-in
35 hunting and fur harvesting, that the land is not grazed or

1 hayed, and that noxious weeds are controlled manually or by
2 spot spraying only.

3 The land and holders of land under the management access
4 program have limited liability under Code chapter 461C for
5 injury occurring to persons who enter the property for
6 hunting, fur harvesting, and other recreational purposes
7 allowed under the management access program.

8 The department of natural resources is responsible for
9 installing and maintaining access and boundary signs on the
10 management access program land.

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