

SENATE FILE 315
BY CONNOLLY and LUNDBY

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a Mississippi river blufflands development and
2 conservation authority and providing for its membership,
3 powers and duties, and funding.

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

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CF 315
NAT. RES. & ENVIRONMENT

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 161G.1 MISSISSIPPI RIVER
2 BLUFFLANDS DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY --
3 MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES.

4 1. A Mississippi river blufflands development and
5 conservation authority is created. The counties of Allamakee,
6 Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Louisa,
7 Des Moines, and Lee are entitled to one voting member each on
8 the board of directors of the authority, but membership or
9 participation in projects of the authority is not required.
10 Each member of the board of directors shall be appointed by
11 the respective board of supervisors for a term to be
12 determined by each board of supervisors, but the term shall
13 not be for less than one year. An appointee shall serve
14 without compensation, but an appointee may be reimbursed for
15 actual expenses incurred while performing the duties of the
16 board of directors as determined by each board of supervisors.
17 The board of directors shall meet, organize, and adopt rules
18 of procedure as deemed necessary to carry out board duties.
19 The board of directors may appoint working committees that
20 include other individuals in addition to voting members.

21 2. The board of directors of the authority shall have the
22 following responsibilities:

23 a. To prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan for the
24 development and conservation of the Mississippi river
25 blufflands area. The plan shall provide for the designation
26 of significant scenic areas, the protection of native
27 vegetation, the education of the public on the need for and
28 methods of preserving the natural resources of the Mississippi
29 river blufflands area, and the promotion of tourism, business,
30 and industry in the Mississippi river blufflands area.

31 b. To apply for, accept, and expend public and private
32 funds for planning and implementing projects and programs.

33 c. To study different options for the protection and
34 preservation of significant historic, scenic, geologic, and
35 recreational areas of the Mississippi river blufflands,

1 including but not limited to a federal or state park,
2 preserve, or monument designation, fee title acquisition, or
3 conservation easement.

4 d. To make recommendations to and coordinate the planning
5 and projects of the authority with other private or public
6 agencies.

7 e. To develop and implement projects for the protection of
8 Mississippi river blufflands areas by acquiring easements from
9 willing sellers and fee title ownership from willing sellers.
10 The board of directors may acquire conservation easements,
11 pursuant to chapter 457A.

12 f. To report annually not later than January 15 to the
13 general assembly the activities of the authority during the
14 preceding fiscal year including, but not limited to, its
15 projects, funding, and expenditures.

16 3. The board of directors shall administer the Mississippi
17 river blufflands development and conservation fund created
18 under section 161G.2 and shall deposit and expend moneys in
19 the fund for the planning, development, and implementation of
20 development and conservation activities or measures in the
21 member counties.

22 4. This section is not intended to affect the authority of
23 the department of natural resources in its acquisition,
24 development, and management of public lands within the
25 counties represented by the authority.

26 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 161G.2 MISSISSIPPI RIVER BLUFFLANDS
27 DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND.

28 A Mississippi river blufflands development and conservation
29 fund is created in the state treasury. The proceeds shall be
30 used for the purposes specified in section 161G.1. The
31 Mississippi river blufflands development and conservation
32 authority may accept gifts, bequests, other moneys including,
33 but not limited to, state or federal moneys, and in-kind
34 contributions for deposit in the fund. The gifts, grants,
35 bequests from public and private sources, state and federal

1 moneys, and other moneys received by the authority shall be
2 deposited in the fund and any interest earned shall be
3 credited to the fund to be used for the purposes specified in
4 section 161G.1. Notwithstanding section 8.33, any unexpended
5 or unencumbered moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the
6 fiscal year shall not revert, but the moneys shall remain
7 available for expenditure by the authority in succeeding
8 fiscal years.

9 EXPLANATION

10 This bill provides for the creation of a Mississippi river
11 blufflands conservation and development authority. The
12 counties of Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton,
13 Scott, Muscatine, Louisa, Des Moines, and Lee are entitled to
14 one voting member each on the authority. Each voting member
15 of the board of directors of the authority is appointed by the
16 board of supervisors of each participating county. The
17 members serve without compensation, but expenses incurred
18 while on authority business may be reimbursed as determined by
19 the respective boards of supervisors. The member's term of
20 office shall be determined by the appointing authority for not
21 less than one year.

22 The responsibilities of the authority are to prepare and
23 adopt a comprehensive plan for the development and
24 conservation of the Mississippi river blufflands area,
25 including the designation of significant scenic areas,
26 protection of native vegetation, promotion of tourism,
27 business and industry, and public education relating to
28 conservation needs for the area. The authority is also to
29 study options for protection and preservation of significant
30 historic, scenic, geologic, and recreational areas, to apply
31 for and accept moneys from private or public sources to fund
32 the projects and programs adopted by the board of directors of
33 the authority, and to report annually to the general assembly
34 relating to its activities during the preceding fiscal year.

35 The bill also creates a Mississippi river blufflands

1 development and conservation fund in the state treasury. The
2 fund is administered by the board of directors of the
3 authority to fund its conservation and development projects,
4 including direct purchases of land from willing sellers and
5 purchase of conservation easements. The authority may accept
6 donations, grants, bequests, and other moneys, including state
7 and federal funds, for deposit in the fund. Interest earned
8 on fund balances is to be credited to the fund and
9 unencumbered moneys are not to revert at the end of the fiscal
10 year.

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