

Behn
Gaskill
Kibbie

SSB-1203

Agriculture
Succeeded By

SENATE/HOUSE FILE Ⓢ/HF 395
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND LAND
STEWARDSHIP BILL)

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for a grain infrastructure assessment study, and
2 making an appropriation.

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

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1 Section 1. APPROPRIATION -- GRAIN INFRASTRUCTURE

2 ASSESSMENT STUDY. There is appropriated from the general fund
3 of the state to the department of agriculture and land
4 stewardship for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and
5 ending June 30, 2002, the following amount, or so much thereof
6 as is necessary, to be used for the purpose designated:

7 For the purpose of conducting a grain infrastructure
8 assessment study:

9 \$ 50,000

10 1. The department shall establish a task force to carry
11 out the study and the secretary of agriculture shall appoint
12 members to the task force who are knowledgeable about grain
13 and the grain industry. The task force shall investigate and
14 analyze this state's grain infrastructure, including
15 practices, systems, and facilities used in handling, storing,
16 and transporting grain, including grain originating from seeds
17 produced by conventional breeding methods and by genetic
18 engineering. The task force shall consider the extent to
19 which grain may be identified, segregated, and maintained in
20 order to preserve the value of the grain and public confidence
21 in this state's grain infrastructure.

22 2. The task force shall report its findings and
23 recommendations to the secretary of agriculture as required by
24 the department. The department shall submit a final report to
25 the general assembly as provided in section 7A.11A, and to the
26 chairpersons and ranking members of the standing committees on
27 agriculture. The report shall be filed by the department not
28 later than January 15, 2002.

29 EXPLANATION

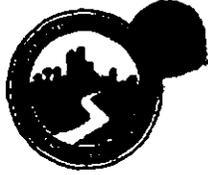
30 This bill appropriates \$50,000 from the general fund of the
31 state for the 2001-2002 fiscal year to the department of
32 agriculture and land stewardship for the purpose of conducting
33 a grain infrastructure assessment study. The department is
34 required to establish a task force to investigate and analyze
35 this state's grain infrastructure, including practices,

1 systems, and facilities used in handling, storing, and
 2 transporting grain, including grain originating from seeds
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 7 assembly by January 15, 2002.

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SSB 1203

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND LAND STEWARDSHIP



MEMO

TO: Members of the Iowa General Assembly

FROM: Patty Judge, Secretary of Agriculture *PJ*

SUBJECT: Grain Infrastructure Assessment Study

DATE: January 18, 2001

Attached you will find a copy of our proposal for a Grain Handling and Infrastructure Assessment study. We are facing some critical issues regarding grain production, handling and processing in Iowa.

This is not simply a biotechnology issue. Segregation of grain is now required for many value added opportunities that are presented to our producers. We must address this issue as both a problem and an opportunity. It is imperative that we take an active role in shaping the outcome of these important issues.

The attached document will provide you with some additional details of Iowa's current position and my proposal to address these concerns. Please feel free to contact me directly or Jamie Cashman our legislative liaison should you have any questions or concerns. Thanks.

Establishment of an Iowa Grain Infrastructure Study

Though biotechnology has recently come to center stage due to the infusion of an unapproved genetic line (Starlink) in the food chain, there are other reasons to review and examine our current grain handling infrastructure. Our grain handling and infrastructure capability has proven to be woefully inadequate with regard to segregation of unapproved genetic lines, is also costing us in lost opportunities to add-value and deliver specific traits to willing buyers. We must begin thinking about the future and how we will need to adapt to these coming changes.

What proactive step can we take to avoid future problems? How can we better prepare for the challenges that lie ahead? A short synopsis of these concerns include; segregation and/or identity preservation (IP), cross pollination, tolerances, testing procedures, consumer confidence, producer choices, value adding opportunities, and others. Concerned parties include farmers, grain elevators, grain processors, livestock feeders, biotechnology and seed firms as well as consumers.

The State of Iowa is the largest producer of corn and soybeans in the United States. Iowa State University is also a leading agricultural institution in the US. We need to be a leader in addressing and solving these complex problems. Unless we take the initiative to bring all parties together to discuss the issues, examine options and opportunities, we will either be handed a solution that is dictated to us, or we will simply allow the judicial (legal) process to unfold. Neither of these is a good option.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship proposes to establish a broad based blue ribbon study committee that will examine these issues and provide recommendations to the legislature, the Governor, and the Secretary. The task force should take testimony and hear concerns from a broad cross-section of parties involved in these issues.

An interim report will be presented to the Iowa Legislature in 2002, but it is envisioned that the task force will not complete its work until the summer of 2002. Specific topics to be addressed include:

- What are the current restraints and limitations of our grain handling and storage system. Can specific actions be identified that will address any shortcomings?
- What opportunities and benefits may develop with a functional system of grain segregation.
- Can we establish our own or recommend specific tolerances to national and international interests?
- Biotechnology today offers opportunity and requires responsibility. Can we facilitate a win – win situation?

3/19/01 Referred from Reg. Comm
Approp. Comm.

FILED MAR 8 '01

395

SENATE FILE
BY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1203)

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SF 395

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