

REAP Law

455A.15 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.

The general assembly finds that:

1. The citizens of Iowa have built and sustained their society on Iowa's air, soils, waters, and rich diversity of life. The well-being and future of Iowa depend on these natural resources.
2. Many human activities have endangered Iowa's natural resources. The state of Iowa has lost ninety-nine and nine-tenths percent of its prairies, ninety-eight percent of its wetlands, eighty percent of its woodlands, fifty percent of its topsoils, and more than one hundred species of wildlife since settlement in the early 1800's. There has been a significant deterioration in the quality of Iowa's surface waters and groundwaters.
3. The long-term effects of Iowa's natural resource losses are not completely known or understood, but detrimental effects are already apparent. Prevention of further loss is therefore imperative.
4. The air, waters, soils, and biota of Iowa are interdependent and form a complex ecosystem. Iowans have the right to inherit this ecosystem in a sustainable condition, without severe or irreparable damage caused by human activities.

455A.16 STATE RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT POLICY.

It is the policy of the state of Iowa to protect its natural resource heritage of air, soils, waters, and wildlife for the benefit of present and future citizens with the establishment of a resource enhancement program. The program shall be a long-term integrated effort to wisely use and protect Iowa's natural resources through the acquisition and management of public lands; the upgrading of public park and preserve facilities; environmental education, monitoring, and research; and other environmentally sound means. The resource enhancement program shall strongly encourage Iowans to develop a conservation ethic, and to make necessary changes in our activities to develop and preserve a rich and diverse natural environment.

455A.17 IOWA CONGRESS ON RESOURCES ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION.

1. Biennially, during even-numbered years, the director shall schedule and make the necessary arrangements for an Iowa congress on resources enhancement and protection. The congress shall be held within the state capitol complex during the summer months.
2. Prior to each congress, the director shall make arrangements to hold an assembly in each council of governments area of persons having an interest in resources enhancement and protection. The department shall promote attendance of interested persons at each assembly. The director shall call each assembly and serve as temporary chairperson. The department shall provide those attending with information regarding resource enhancement and protection expenditures. The assemblies shall identify opportunities for regional resource enhancement and protection and review and recommend changes in resource enhancement and protection policies, programs, and funding. The persons meeting at each assembly shall elect five persons as delegates to the congress on resources enhancement and protection.
3. The delegates to the congress on resources enhancement and protection shall organize, discuss, and make recommendations to the governor, the general assembly, and the natural resource commission regarding issues concerning resources enhancement and protection. The director shall call the congress and serve as temporary chairperson. The delegates are entitled to a per diem as specified in section 7E.6 for expenses of office while attending the congress.
4. The expenses of the department in making the arrangements for and the conducting of the council of governments area assemblies and the congress on resources enhancement and protection and the per diem for expenses of the delegates at the congress shall be paid from the funds appropriated for this purpose.

455A.17A REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF REAP MONEYS -- CONGRESS ON RESOURCES ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION.

Repealed by 95Acts, ch 216, § 41.

455A.18 IOWA RESOURCES ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION FUND -- AUDITS.

1. An Iowa resources enhancement and protection fund is created in the office of the treasurer of state. The fund consists of all revenues and all other moneys lawfully credited or transferred to the fund. The director shall certify monthly the portions of the fund that are allocated to the various accounts as provided under section 455A.19. The director shall certify before the twentieth of each month the portions of the fund resulting from the previous month's receipts to be allocated to the various accounts.
2. The auditor of state or a certified public accountant firm appointed by the auditor of state shall conduct annual audits of all accounts and transactions of the fund.
3. For each fiscal year of the fiscal period beginning July 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 2026, there is appropriated from the general fund, to the Iowa resources enhancement and protection fund, the amount of twenty million dollars, to be used as provided in this chapter. However, in any fiscal year of the fiscal period, if moneys from the lottery are appropriated by the state to the fund, the amount appropriated under this subsection shall be reduced by the amount appropriated from the lottery. Section 8.33 does not apply to moneys appropriated under this subsection.

4. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, interest or earnings on investments or time deposits of the moneys in the Iowa resources enhancement and protection fund or any of its accounts shall be credited to the Iowa resources enhancement and protection fund.

455A.19 ALLOCATION OF FUND PROCEEDS.

1. Upon receipt of any revenue, the director shall deposit the moneys in the Iowa resources enhancement and protection fund created pursuant to section 455A.18. The first three hundred fifty thousand dollars of the funds received for deposit in the fund annually shall be allocated to the conservation education program board for the purposes specified in section 455A.21. One percent of the revenue receipts shall be deducted and transferred to the administration fund provided for in section 456A.17. All of the remaining receipts shall be allocated to the following accounts:
 - a. Twenty-eight percent shall be allocated to the open spaces account. At least ten percent of the allocations to the account shall be made available to match private funds for open space projects on the cost-share basis of not less than twenty-five percent private funds pursuant to the rules adopted by the natural resource commission. Five percent of the funds allocated to the open spaces account shall be used to fund the protected waters program. This account shall be used by the department to implement the statewide open space acquisition, protection, and development programs. The department shall give priority to acquisition and control of open spaces of statewide significance. The department shall also use these funds for developments on state property. The total cost of an open spaces project funded under this paragraph "a" shall not exceed two million dollars unless a public hearing is held on the project in the area of the state affected by the project. However, on and after July 1, 1994, the following shall apply:
 - (1) If the total amount appropriated by the general assembly to the resources enhancement and protection fund, in any fiscal year as defined in section 8.36, is seven million dollars or more, not more than seventy-five percent of moneys in the open spaces account shall be allocated or obligated during that fiscal year to support a single project.
 - (2) If the total amount appropriated by the general assembly to the resources enhancement and protection fund, in any fiscal year as defined in section 8.36, is less than seven million dollars, not more than fifty percent of moneys in the open spaces account shall be allocated or obligated during that fiscal year to support a single project. Political subdivisions of the state shall be reimbursed for property tax dollars lost to open space acquisitions based on the reimbursement formula provided for in section 465A.4. There is appropriated from the open spaces account to the department the amount in that account, or so much thereof as is necessary, to carry out the open spaces program as specified in this paragraph "a". An appropriation made under this paragraph "a" shall continue in force for two fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the appropriation was made or until completion of the project. All unencumbered or unobligated funds remaining at the close of the fiscal year in which the project is completed or at the close of the final fiscal year, whichever date is earlier, shall revert to the open spaces account.
 - b. Twenty percent shall be allocated to the county conservation account.
 - (1) Thirty percent of the allocation to the county conservation account annually shall be allocated to each county equally.
 - (2) Thirty percent of the allocation to the county conservation account annually shall be allocated to each county on a per capita basis.
 - (3) Forty percent of the allocation to the county conservation account annually shall be held in an account in the state treasury for the natural resource commission to award to counties on a competitive grant basis by a project selection committee established in this subparagraph. Local matching funds are not required for grants awarded under this subparagraph. The project planning and review committee shall be composed of two staff members of the department and two county conservation board directors appointed by the director and a fifth member selected by a majority vote of the director's appointees. The natural resource commission, by rule, shall establish procedures for application, review, and selection of county projects submitted for funding. Upon recommendation of the project planning and review committee, the director shall award the grants.
 - (4) Funds allocated to the counties under subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) may be used for land easements or acquisitions, capital improvements, stabilization and protection of resources, repair and upgrading of facilities, environmental education, and equipment. However, expenditures are not allowed for single or multipurpose athletic fields, baseball or softball diamonds, tennis courts, golf courses, swimming pools, and other group or organized sport facilities. Funds may be used for county projects located within the boundaries of a city.
 - (5) Funds allocated pursuant to subparagraphs (2) and (3) shall only be allocated to counties dedicating property tax revenue at least equal to twenty-two cents per thousand dollars of the assessed value of taxable property in the county to county conservation purposes. State funds received under this paragraph shall not reduce or replace county tax revenues appropriated for county conservation purposes. The county auditor shall submit documentation annually of the dedication of property tax revenue for county conservation purposes. The annual audit of the financial transactions and condition of a county shall certify compliance with requirements of this subparagraph. Funds not allocated to counties not qualifying for the allocations under subparagraph (2) as a result of this subparagraph shall be held in reserve for each county for two years. Counties qualifying within two years may receive the funds held in reserve. Funds not spent by a county within two years shall revert to the general pool of county funds for reallocation to other counties where needed.
 - (6) Each board of supervisors shall create a special resource enhancement account in the office of county treasurer and the county treasurer shall credit all resource enhancement funds received from the state in that account. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, all interest earned on funds in the county resource enhancement account shall be credited to that account and used for the purposes authorized for that account.

- (7) There is appropriated from the county conservation account to the department the amount in that account, or so much thereof as is necessary, to fund the provisions of this paragraph. An appropriation made under this paragraph shall continue in force for two fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the appropriation was made or until completion of the project for which the appropriation was made, whichever date is earlier. All unencumbered or unobligated funds remaining at the close of the fiscal year in which a project funded pursuant to subparagraph (3) is completed or at the close of the third fiscal year, whichever date is earlier, shall revert to the county conservation account.
 - (8) Any funds received by a county under this paragraph may be used to match other state or federal funds, and multicounty or multiagency projects may be funded under this paragraph.
- c. Twenty percent shall be allocated to the soil and water enhancement account. The moneys shall be used to carry out soil and water enhancement programs including, but not limited to, reforestation, woodland protection and enhancement, wildlife habitat preservation and enhancement, protection of highly erodible soils, and clean water programs. The division of soil conservation, by rule, shall establish procedures for eligibility, application, review, and selection of projects and practices to implement the requirements of this paragraph. There is appropriated from the soil and water enhancement account to the soil conservation division the amount in that account, or so much thereof as is necessary, to carry out the programs as specified in this paragraph. Remaining funds of the soil and water enhancement account shall be allocated to the accounts of the water protection fund authorized in section 161C.4. Annually, fifty percent of the soil and water enhancement account funds shall be allocated to the water quality protection projects account. The balance of the funds shall be allocated to the water protection practices account. An appropriation made under this paragraph shall continue in force for two fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the appropriation was made or until completion of the project for which the appropriation was made, whichever date is earlier. All unencumbered or unobligated funds remaining at the close of the fiscal year in which the project is completed or at the close of the third fiscal year, whichever date is earlier, shall revert to the soil and water enhancement account.
 - d. Fifteen percent shall be allocated to a cities' parks and open space account. The moneys allocated in this paragraph may be used to fund competitive grants to cities to acquire, establish, and maintain natural parks, preserves, and open spaces. The grants may include expenditures for multipurpose trails, restroom facilities, shelter houses, and picnic facilities, but expenditures for single or multipurpose athletic fields, baseball or softball diamonds, tennis courts, golf courses, swimming pools, and other group or organized sport facilities requiring specialized equipment are excluded. The grants may be used for city projects located outside of a city's boundaries. The natural resource commission, by rule, shall establish procedures for application, review, and selection of city projects on a competitive basis. The rules shall provide for three categories of cities based on population within which the cities shall compete for grants. There is appropriated from the cities' parks and open space account to the department the amount in that account, or so much thereof as is necessary, to carry out the competitive grant program as provided in this paragraph.
 - e. Nine percent shall be allocated to the state land management account. The department shall use the moneys allocated to this account for maintenance and expansion of state lands and related facilities under its jurisdiction. The authority to expand state lands and facilities under this paragraph is limited to expansion of the state lands and facilities already owned by the state. There is appropriated from the state land management account to the department the moneys in that account, or so much thereof as is necessary, to implement a maintenance and expansion program for state lands and related facilities under the jurisdiction of the department.
 - f. Five percent shall be allocated to the historical resource grant and loan fund established pursuant to section 303.16. The department of cultural affairs shall use the moneys allocated to this fund to implement historical resource development programs as provided under section 303.16.
 - g. Three percent shall be allocated to the living roadway account for distribution to the living roadway trust fund created under section 314.21 for the development and implementation of integrated roadside vegetation plans.
2. The moneys appropriated under this section shall remain in the appropriate account of the Iowa resources enhancement and protection fund until such time as the agency, board, commission, or overseer of the fund to which moneys are appropriated has made a request to the treasurer for use of moneys appropriated to it and the amount needed for that use. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys remaining of the appropriations made for a fiscal year from any of the accounts within the Iowa resources enhancement and protection fund on June 30 of that fiscal year, shall not revert to any fund but shall remain in that account to be used for the purposes for which they were appropriated and the moneys remaining in that account shall not be considered in making the allotments for the next fiscal year. However, any moneys in excess of five hundred thousand dollars, remaining in the living roadway account under subsection 1, paragraph "g", on June 30 shall revert to the resources enhancement and protection fund under this section for distribution pursuant to the formula under this section except for subsection 1, paragraph "g". That proportion of moneys that would have been reallocated to subsection 1, paragraph "g", shall be distributed to the open spaces account under subsection 1, paragraph "a".

455A.20 COUNTY RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE.

1. A county resource enhancement committee is created in each county. The membership of the committee shall be as follows:
 - a. The chairpersons of the board of supervisors, county conservation board, commissioners of the soil and water district, and board of directors of each school district in the county. A chairperson may appoint a member of the chairperson's board or commission as the chairperson's designee on the committee. The chairperson or designee of a school district shall be a member of the county committee of the county in which a majority or the largest plurality of the district's students reside.

- b. The mayor or the mayor's designee of each city in a county. The mayor's designee shall be a member of the city council. If a city is located in more than one county, the membership shall be on the county committee of the county in which the largest population of the city resides.
- c. The titular head or the head's designee of each recognized farm organization having a county organization in the county. The designee shall be a member of the organization represented. The recognized farm organizations are the following:
 - (1) The Iowa farm bureau federation.
 - (2) The Iowa farmers union.
 - (3) The Iowa grange.
 - (4) The national farmers organization.
 - (5) The Iowa farm unity coalition.
 - (6) Any other recognized farm or farm commodity group.
- d. The chairperson or the chairperson's designee of each of the following wildlife or conservation organizations having a recognized county organization:
 - (1) Iowa Audubon council.
 - (2) Iowa sportsmens federation.
 - (3) Ducks unlimited.
 - (4) Sierra club.
 - (5) Pheasants forever.
 - (6) The nature conservancy.
 - (7) Iowa association of naturalists.
 - (8) Izaak Walton League of America.
 - (9) Other recognized wildlife, conservation, environmental, recreation, conservation education, or historical-cultural preservation groups, or a nonpartisan governmental research or study group limited to the league of women voters. The designee shall be a member of the county chapter or organization in the county.
- e. If a question arises as to whether a recognized county organization exists under paragraph "c" or "d", the question shall be decided by a majority vote of the members selected under paragraphs "a" and "b", excluding the representative of the county conservation board. Sections 69.16 and 69.16A do not apply to appointments made pursuant to this subsection.
 - 2. The duties of the county resource enhancement committee are to coordinate the resource enhancement program, plans, and proposed projects developed by cities, county conservation board, and soil and water conservation district commissioners for funding under this division. The county committee shall review and comment upon all projects before they are submitted for funding under section 455A.19. Each county committee shall propose a five-year program plan which includes a one- year proposed expenditure plan and submit it to the department.
 - 3. The initial meeting of the committee shall be called by the chairperson of the board of supervisors. The chairperson shall give written notice of the date, time, and location of the first meeting. The county committee shall meet at least annually to organize by selecting a chairperson, vice chairperson, and other officers as necessary. The committee shall adopt rules governing the conduct of its meetings, subject to chapter 21.
 - 4. The board of supervisors shall provide a meeting room and the necessary secretarial and clerical assistance for the committee. The expenses shall be paid from the county general fund.
 - 5. The members of the committee are not entitled to compensation or expenses related to their duties of office, except as may otherwise be provided by the boards, commissions, or organizations which the members represent.

455A.21 CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM BOARD.

- 1. A conservation education program board is created in the department. The board shall have five members appointed as follows:
 - a. One member appointed by the director of the department of education.
 - b. One member appointed by the director of the department of natural resources.
 - c. One member appointed by the president of the Iowa association of county conservation boards.
 - d. One member appointed by the president of the Iowa association of naturalists.
 - e. One member appointed by the president of the Iowa conservation education council.
- 2. Section 69.16 does not apply to appointments made pursuant to this section.
- 3. The duties of the board are to revise and produce conservation education materials and to specify stipends to Iowa educators who participate in innovative conservation education programs approved by the board. The board shall allocate the funds provided for under section 455A.19, subsection 1, for the educational materials and stipends.
- 4. The department shall administer the funds allocated to the conservation education program as provided in this section.