

REBUILD IOWA AND DISASTER RECOVERY

IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

END OF SESSION, 2010

SMART PLANNING

Establishes a set of ten smart planning principles that state and local governments should use in preparing for economic growth and to mitigate damage from future floods. These principles are guides and are not mandates. Iowa's current code section on planning dates back to the 1950's and is based on a model law developed in the 1920's. In addition, a task force is created to consult with experts, local governments, and others; solicit information from the public; evaluate state policies, programs, and laws; develop statewide goals; evaluate and develop incentives to conduct comprehensive planning; develop a model for regional comprehensive planning; and develop recommendations for a state comprehensive planning programs. In addition, \$30 million for flood prevention grants is provided for use by smart growth/comprehensive planning communities. (SF 2389 to Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

Realizing that flood prevention and mitigation is a regional issue, not just local, this bill authorizes the creation of watershed management authorities using 28E agreements. The agreements can be between political subdivisions - cities, counties, and soil and water conservation districts. However, no political subdivision is required to participate. A county or a soil and water district can participate in more than one authority. Authorities can assess the flood risks, the water quality, and options to reduce flood risk and improve water quality; can monitor federal flood risk planning and activities; and can educate residents of the watershed area regarding flood risks and water quality. (HF 2459, Signed by Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT –

WATERSHED DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The Iowa department of natural resources and the department of agriculture and land stewardships, in collaboration with the Iowa Flood Center and the USDA's natural resources conservation service, and in cooperation with the water resources coordinating council, are to seek funding to plan, implement, and monitor a watershed demonstration pilot project for urban and rural areas. The project is to maximize water-holding capacity, minimize severe scour erosion and sand deposition during floods, manage water runoff in uplands under saturated soil moisture conditions, and reduce and mitigate structural and nonstructural flood damage. (HF 2459, Signed by Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

EDUCATION

A marketing campaign will be developed to remind Iowans that everyone is responsible for and benefits from reducing the risk of flooding as well as mitigating possible future floods. Iowa State University extension service, the department of natural resources and state agencies are to work with experts to educate Iowans about flood plains, flood risks, and basic flood plain management principles. (HF 2531, to Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

CASE MANAGEMENT

During the recovery efforts following the floods, tornadoes, and storms of 2008, a case management system was implemented to help individual disaster victims determine what assistance was available to them and to help them apply for and receive that assistance. This coordinated system is considered one of the successful efforts implemented in the wake of the 2008 disasters. This bill will make the individual case management system permanent so it is available for any future disasters. In addition, a task force is created to determine how a case management system can be established for businesses that may be affected in the future. (HF 2422, Signed by Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

INDIVIDUAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

This program was established to assist middle class families to meet disaster-related expenses. The program allows DHS to reimburse families after they have made their purchases. The grant cannot exceed \$5,000. Many families do not have the ability to purchase the lost items and then wait for reimbursement. This bill allows a victim to receive a voucher to cover the cost of the item or items, up to \$5,000. (HF 2294, to Governor, effective July 1, 2010.)

DISASTER REBUILDING AND FLOOD PREVENTION

- \$30.4 million in funding through revenue bonds will be used for flood projects and flood mitigation:
 - Renovation of Cedar Rapids Former Federal Courthouse - \$2 million
 - Cedar Rapids and Linn County Projects- \$8.8 million
 - Mason City Small Business Center (\$1.5 million) and Linn County economic commerce building (\$1.2 million) - \$2.7 million total
 - Des Moines and Polk County Projects- \$9.5 million
 - Davenport - Woodman Stadium Flood Protection - \$1.05 million
 - Waterloo - Public Works Building - \$5 million
 - Iowa City - Wastewater Treatment Plant - \$2 million
 - West Union - Green Pilot Project - \$1.175 million
 - Jessup City Hall - \$475,000
 - Belmond - Storm Sewer Flood Protection - \$600,000
 - Norwalk - Orchard Ridge Drainage - \$300,000
- Watershed Grants - \$2 million
(SF 2389, to Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT FUNDING

\$2 million will be used for floodplain management, focusing on improving floodplain mapping, assisting local entities with permits and planning, increasing inspections for safety and structural integrity of dams and levees, developing a statewide flood control plan, and assisting emergency management teams with flood events. \$400,000 may be used for stream gauges for predicting flood events and gathering data. (SF 2389, to Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

IOWA FLOOD CENTER

Provides \$1.3 million for the Iowa Flood Center at the University of Iowa to develop hydrologic models and improve flood monitoring and predictions, share resources and expertise, and develop a workforce knowledgeable in flood research, prediction, and mitigation strategies. (SF 2389, to Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

**WAIVING INTEREST AND
PENALTIES FOR DISASTER
VICTIMS**

This bill requires the director of the department of revenue to waive any interest and penalty due for those taxpayers who filed a return for tax year 2008 relying in good faith that Iowa would conform to federal laws. This includes Iowans who experienced losses due to the 2008 weather-related disasters. If the taxpayer has already paid interest and penalty, the department of revenue must provide a refund. (HF 2531, to Governor, effective immediately)

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

HF 2487

Recovery Zone Bonds (Signed by Governor, effective 4/7/10)

SF 2371

Royalty fees and credits for removal of sand and gravel (To Governor, effective on enactment)