

**House File 2587 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2587

BY ISENHART

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for a statewide soil resource health and  
2 recovery monitoring system.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 466B.44A Soil resource health and  
2 recovery monitoring system.

3 1. The division in cooperation with the center shall  
4 establish a statewide soil resource health and recovery  
5 monitoring system that receives data regarding the continued  
6 capacity of this state's soils to permanently sustain plant and  
7 animal life. As part of the system, the division shall adopt  
8 long-term objectives and short-term interim goals or benchmarks  
9 on a statewide and regional basis.

10 2. The system shall provide for methods to measure, analyze,  
11 and track all of the following:

12 a. A soil's nutrient retention capacity and a soil's  
13 fertility.

14 b. The structure, stability, and compaction of a soil.

15 c. Soil depth and degrees of soil erosion.

16 d. The capacity of a soil to retain precipitation and its  
17 capacity to filter the transport of nutrients.

18 e. A soil's habitat for earthworms and soil microbes.

19 f. The value of a soil to produce crops, and levels of  
20 nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, sulfur, and calcium  
21 present in a soil.

22 3. The division in cooperation with the center shall do all  
23 of the following:

24 a. Evaluate its progress in administering the system to  
25 ensure its long-term viability and improvement.

26 b. Collaborate with participating landowners. The division  
27 may enter into maintenance agreements or easements with  
28 participating landowners.

29 4. a. Beginning December 13, 2023, and not later than  
30 every two years after that anniversary date, the division in  
31 cooperation with the center shall submit a soil resource health  
32 and recovery report to the governor and general assembly.

33 b. The report shall provide a summary of the division's  
34 activities, findings, and recommendations to sustain and  
35 improve this state's soil resources, including methods to

1 assist in the recovery of soil health. The recommendation may  
2 include proposed legislation or administrative rules.

3 EXPLANATION

4 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
5 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

6 This bill requires the division of soil conservation  
7 and water quality of the department of agriculture and land  
8 stewardship, in cooperation with the Iowa nutrient research  
9 center associated with Iowa state university of science and  
10 technology, to establish a statewide soil resource health and  
11 recovery monitoring system in order to measure, analyze, and  
12 track soil health regarding the continued capacity of this  
13 state's soils to permanently sustain plant and animal life.  
14 The division and center must collaborate with participating  
15 landowners. The division and center must submit a report to  
16 the governor and general assembly every two years, beginning  
17 December 13, 2023, that summarizes the division's activities,  
18 findings, and recommendations.