A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an agriculture climate adaptation advisory
2 task force and providing for an agriculture climate
3 adaptation report.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
Section 1. AGRICULTURE CLIMATE ADAPTATION ADVISORY TASK FORCE.

1. a. The general assembly expressly recognizes the impact of climatic change on ecosystem processes that support agricultural productivity, including an increase in the frequency, duration, and intensity of floods and droughts, pest infestations, and extreme temperatures that compromise this state's soil, water resources, the health of crops and livestock, and the health and well-being of human populations.

b. It is the objective of this state to reduce the impact of factors associated with climatic change on ecosystem processes that support agricultural productivity and adopt strategies to ameliorate the effects of such climate change on a short-term and long-term basis.

2. There is created an agriculture climate adaptation advisory task force housed within the department of agriculture and land stewardship.

a. The voting members of the task force shall include all of the following:

(1) The secretary of agriculture or a designee appointed by the secretary of agriculture.

(2) The director of the department of natural resources or a designee appointed by the director.

(3) A person appointed by the president of the university of northern Iowa who shall represent the Iowa center for energy and environmental education.

(4) A person appointed by the president of Iowa state university of science and technology who is associated with the Iowa water center.

(5) A person appointed by the president of Iowa state university of science and technology who is associated with the college of agriculture and life sciences.

(6) A person appointed by the president of Iowa state university of science and technology who is associated with extension and outreach programs as part of the agriculture and
natural resources department.
(7) A person appointed by the president of the university of
Iowa who is associated with the Iowa flood center.
(8) A person appointed by the president of the university of
Iowa who is associated with the center for global and regional
environmental research.
(9) The director of the Leopold center or a designee
appointed by the director. The director or the director’s
designee shall serve as the chairperson of the task force.
(10) (a) The following persons interested in agriculture
and the effects of climate change, or their designees, shall
be appointed by the governor:
(i) The chair of the Iowa chapter of the sierra club.
(ii) The executive director of the practical farmers of
Iowa.
(iii) The executive director of the women, food and
agriculture network.
(iv) The executive director to the Iowa organic
association.
(v) The president of the Iowa farmers union.
(vi) The executive director of the Izaak Walton league.
(vii) The executive director of the Iowa environmental
council.
(viii) The executive director of the center for rural
affairs.
(ix) The executive director of the Iowa interfaith power and
light.
(x) The president of the environmental law and policy
center.
(xi) The president of the Iowa farm bureau federation.
(xii) The president of the Iowa soybean association.
(xiii) The president of the Iowa corn growers association.
(xiv) The president of the Iowa pork producers.
(xv) The president of the Iowa poultry association.
(xvi) The president of the Iowa cattlemen’s association.
(xvii) The chief executive officer of the Iowa agribusiness association.

(b) Of the governor's appointees, at least nine must be actively engaged in farming. Of those persons actively engaged in farming, at least one must be a woman, at least one must belong to an ethnic or racial minority group, one must be engaged in pasture-based livestock production, and one must have received a majority of the person's annual income from agricultural production for less than five years.

b. The ex officio, nonvoting members of the task force shall include all of the following:

(1) Two members of the senate. One senator shall be appointed by the majority leader of the senate and one senator shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

(2) Two members of the house of representatives. One member shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

3. A majority of the voting members then appointed constitutes a quorum, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members present is necessary for any action taken by the task force, except that a lesser number of voting members may adjourn a meeting.

4. A voting member appointed by the governor shall receive actual expenses for their services. A member is not eligible to receive compensation as provided in section 7E.6.

5. The appointments of voting members shall comply with the political party affiliation and gender balance requirements of sections 69.16 and 69.16A.

6. A vacancy in the membership shall not impair the right of the task force to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the task force.

7. The department of agriculture and land stewardship shall provide office space, staff assistance, and necessary supplies and equipment for the task force. Upon request, the task force
shall receive assistance from state and local governments and other entities, including but not limited to the department of agriculture and land stewardship, department of natural resources, the university of Iowa, Iowa state university of science and technology, and the university of northern Iowa.

8. The task force shall meet on a regular basis and at the call of the chairperson or upon the written request to the chairperson of five or more voting members.

9. In order to achieve the objective provided in subsection 1, the task force shall prepare an agriculture climate adaptation report. The report shall do all of the following:

a. Identify factors and trends attributable to climate change that are projected to impact ecosystem processes that support agricultural productivity.

b. Identify and evaluate available methods and technologies that are proven to assist in mitigating the effects of climate change on such processes.

c. Respond in detail to findings regarding the cumulative effects of climate change on human activities and natural processes regarding agriculture as provided in Volume II of the publication entitled "Impacts, Risks, and Adaption in the United States Fourth National Climate Assessment" as prepared by the U.S. global change research program, and published pursuant to the U.S. Global Research Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-606.

10. The report may address the degree to which actions further achieve the objective provided in subsection 1, including but not limited to all of the following:

a. Practices that are environmentally sustainable that do any of the following:

(1) Promote the health and preservation of soils, including but not limited to cover crops, no-till planting, ridge-till planting, contouring, and contour strip-cropping.

(2) Reduce and control the use of phosphorus and fertilizers or nutrients which may include selection and rotation of crops...
1 and the planting of perennial plants
2 (3) Increase the use of pastures.
3   b. Practices that modify or manage the landscape, including
4 by the installation and maintenance of carbon sinks and carbon
5 sequestration systems; the establishment or restoration of
6 native prairies, wildlife or riparian habitats, wetlands, and
7 forests; and the production of alternative, specialty, and
8 perennial crops.
9   c. Methods to prevent or resist crop damage caused by
10 pathogens or pests, which may include the implementation of
11 integrated pest management practices or participation in
12 organic food production, including as provided in chapter 190C.
13 11. The report shall include recommendations necessary to
14 achieve the objective provided in subsection 1, including all
15 of the following:
16   a. Methods to provide technical and financial assistance
17 to agricultural producers seeking to improve agricultural
18 operations in a profitable, cost-effective, and timely manner.
19   b. Funding mechanisms that take into account all fiscal
20 matters related to implementing the report during the following
21 five-year period, including allocations to state agencies
22 responsible for administering actions recommended by the task
23 force.
24   c. Any proposed amendments to statutes or administrative
25 rules required to meet the objective provided in subsection 1.
26 12. Not later than December 13, 2019, the task force,
27 in cooperation with the department of agriculture and land
28 stewardship and the Leopold center, shall submit the report to
29 the governor and general assembly.
30 EXPLANATION
31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
33 This bill provides that it is the objective of this state to
34 reduce the impact of factors associated with climatic change
35 on ecosystem processes that support agricultural productivity.
The bill establishes an agriculture climate adaptation task force housed within the department of agriculture and land stewardship and composed of voting members representing a number of state agencies and private organizations interested in agriculture and the environment. It also includes four ex offico, nonvoting members of the general assembly. The task force is charged to achieve the objective by preparing an agriculture climate adaptation report (report). The purpose of the report is to identify factors and trends attributable to climate change that are projected to impact agricultural productivity. The report must identify and evaluate available methods and technologies to ameliorate the effects of climate change on agriculture and include recommendations necessary to achieve the objectives. The report must be submitted to the governor and general assembly by December 13, 2019.