A BILL FOR

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
Section 1. NEW SECTION. 466B.44A Soil resource health and recovery monitoring system.

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

2. The system shall provide for methods to measure, analyze, and track all of the following:
   a. A soil's nutrient retention capacity and a soil's fertility.
   b. The structure, stability, and compaction of a soil.
   c. Soil depth and degrees of soil erosion.
   d. The capacity of a soil to retain precipitation and its capacity to filter the transport of nutrients.
   e. A soil's habitat for earthworms and soil microbes.
   f. The value of a soil to produce crops, and levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, sulfur, and calcium present in a soil.

3. The division in cooperation with the center shall do all of the following:
   a. Evaluate its progress in administering the system to ensure its long-term viability and improvement.
   b. Collaborate with participating landowners. The division may enter into maintenance agreements or easements with participating landowners.

4. a. Beginning December 13, 2023, and not later than every two years after that anniversary date, the division in cooperation with the center shall submit a soil resource health and recovery report to the governor and general assembly.
   b. The report shall provide a summary of the division's activities, findings, and recommendations to sustain and improve this state's soil resources, including methods to
assist in the recovery of soil health. The recommendation may include proposed legislation or administrative rules.

EXPLANATION

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

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