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commission to perform an assessment of agricultural lands in the state for carbon sequestration potential. The bill provides that the commission may contract with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to perform this assessment. Basically, the NRCS was chosen because of its experience in conducting a similar assessment completed in Iowa, and other assessments underway in Virginia, Indiana, and Mississippi. The NRCS and the Natural Resources Ecology Lab has developed one of the leading models, known as the century model, for modeling carbon sequestered through various farming practices. Essentially, the assessment process is one of gathering soil, assessing the climate, historical cropping patterns and other information for input into the century model. The bill also provides for the appointment of a 13-member Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee to advise and assist the commission with its duties under the bill. Membership has been selected in an attempt to bring necessary expertise to the process. The advisory committee is also charged with recommending policies and programs to assist producers in understanding processes of carbon sequestration, the existence of carbon markets, and advising producers in participation. Carbon trading has grown in credibility in recent years, particularly as international agreements have recognized carbon marketing as a means of meeting carbon emission targets. Essentially because reductions in carbon emissions are likely to be technologically difficult and expensive, carbon trading offers an alternative. Those businesses which may have an interest or duty to reduce carbon emissions would have an incentive to pay those who are able to offset emissions through carbon sequestration activities. Because of that, there is an interest in U.S. farmland as a carbon sink, and the growing interest in bringing producers into the mix. The U.S., the United States, is the signatory to the Kyoto protocols which would commit nations around the world to meet carbon emission reduction targets. While U.S. delegates have signed the treaty, it has not been ratified by our Congress and it is likely that it will not be ratified in its current form. However, it is likely that some version of a carbon dioxide treaty will eventually be ratified and such a system is likely to include recognition of both reduced emissions and markets for induced carbon storage which increase activities that offset carbon emissions. I should point out that markets for carbon stored in U.S. soils are developing ahead of and