

5 7. This section does not make unlawful any activity of any of the following officials or persons:

a. Law enforcement officials of this or any other jurisdiction while engaged in the lawful performance of their official duties;

b. Federal officials required to carry firearms while engaged in the lawful performance of their official duties;

c. Members of the armed forces of the United States or the national guard while engaged in the lawful performance of their official duties; ~~or~~

d. Any conservation commission, law enforcement agency, or any agency licensed to provide security services, or any hunting club, gun club, shooting range, or other organization or entity whose primary purpose is to teach the safe handling or use of firearms, archery equipment, or other weapons or techniques employed in connection with lawful sporting or other lawful activity.

Sec. 3.

This Act shall not be construed to establish any new category of individual rights not currently protected by the laws of this state or federal law, or to enlarge, diminish, or impair any right guaranteed by the laws of this state or federal law.

Sec. 4.

The Code editor shall amend the title of chapter 729 by changing the word "civil" to "individual" to reflect the changes made in this Act.

Approved April 3, 1990

CHAPTER 1140

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

H.F. 705

AN ACT establishing an Iowa economic development network and related councils and centers to assist in making available economic development programs and services.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 15.108, subsection 3, paragraph a, subparagraph (2), Code Supplement 1989, is amended by striking the subparagraph.

Sec. 2. Section 15.264, subsection 3, Code 1989, is amended by striking the subsection.

Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 15.301 TITLE.

This part shall be known as the "Iowa Economic Development Network Act".

Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 15.302 PURPOSE – INTENT.

1. The purpose of the Iowa economic development network is to create and stimulate economic opportunity through planning and technical assistance and support to entrepreneurs and existing business in the state.

2. It is the intent of the general assembly to make available and coordinate economic development services and programs to assist individuals, businesses, and communities through the Iowa economic development network.

Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 15.303 ESTABLISHMENT OF IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORK – DUTIES OF DIRECTOR.

1. The Iowa economic development network is established in the department of economic development. The director of the department of economic development is the executive director of the Iowa economic development network.

2. The director shall do all of the following:

a. Establish a primary center for economic development programs and services.
b. Establish a statewide system of regional economic development centers.
c. Establish regional coordinating councils to coordinate the regional delivery of economic development programs and services to businesses and the operation of the regional economic development centers.

d. Cooperate with the councils of governments, merged area schools, small business development centers, the center for industrial research and service, the Iowa quality coalition, other service providers, and new and existing businesses in the state to fulfill the purposes of the Iowa economic development network.

Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 15.304 IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORK – DUTIES.

The Iowa economic development network shall do all of the following:

1. Coordinate the delivery of economic development and community development programs and services with other local, regional, state, and federal programs and activities.

2. Provide leadership and support in the development and implementation of statewide, regional, and local economic and community development planning efforts.

3. Provide information and data to Iowa businesses, communities, and individuals through a central registry.

4. Provide coordination, assistance, and support for the operation of regional economic development centers, and regional coordinating councils.

5. Establish, in coordination with the Iowa economic development training program, a professional development training and education curriculum that will implement a certification program for administrators and employees of the regional economic development centers and which would be available to the administrators and employees of the department and other interested persons.

Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 15.305 REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCILS – DUTIES.

1. For purposes of the Iowa economic development network, the state is divided into fifteen regions. The boundaries of the regions are contiguous to the boundaries established for the merged areas under chapter 280A. Each region shall establish a regional coordinating council.

2. The director of the department of economic development shall contract with each regional coordinating council to provide economic development programs and services to businesses in the area. The contract shall include but is not limited to the following:

a. Establishment and operation of a regional economic development center within each region. The department may authorize and provide supplemental funding for a subcenter of the regional economic development center within the merged area upon application by the regional coordinating council. A subcenter shall be based upon demographic and geographic considerations that are adopted by the department.

b. Employment of an administrator and other personnel to operate the regional economic development center. The contract shall include responsibilities and duties of the administrator and other personnel, wage and benefit provisions, and performance measures related to the operation of the regional economic development center.

c. An annual budget for the operation of the regional economic development center including a provision to transfer funds from the department to the regional coordinating council or its designee, as agreed upon by the regional coordinating council and the director. The budget shall reflect the work plan of the regional coordinating council and the regional economic development center to implement the intent and purposes of the Iowa economic development network.

d. Authorization for a regional coordinating council to enter into agreements to obtain necessary facilities or other support services for the regional economic development center.

3. Membership of the regional coordinating council shall consist of at least twelve members who shall be representative of education, government, business and industry, labor, and service organizations in the merged area. Private sector representation shall comprise at least one-half of the membership. Service providers serving a substantial portion of the merged area may have a representative on the regional coordinating council. The appointment and terms of office of the members shall be governed by bylaws adopted by each regional coordinating council.

4. A director, officer, employee, member, trustee, or volunteer, of a regional coordinating council is not liable for the debts or obligations of the regional coordinating council and a director, officer, employee, member, trustee, or volunteer is not personally liable for a claim based upon an act or omission of the person performed in the discharge of the person's duties, except for acts or omissions which involve intentional misconduct or known violation of the law, or for a transaction from which the person derives an improper personal benefit.

5. The regional coordinating councils shall do all of the following:

a. Adopt a multiyear regional business assistance work plan to implement the purposes of the Iowa economic development network and guide the operation of the regional economic development center in the delivery of programs and services to businesses in the region and provide annual updates. The work plan may include other activities specifically designed to meet the needs of businesses in the region. The regional coordinating council may consult with service providers within the region in the preparation and adoption of the work plan and may contract with one or more service providers in its preparation. The work plan shall be submitted to the department for review and comment before the adoption of the work plan by the regional coordinating council. Before the release of any state funds by the department for operation of a regional economic development center, the work plan shall be approved by the department.

b. Establish and operate a regional economic development center to implement the goals and objectives established in the work plan and deliver economic development programs and services to businesses in the region.

c. Cooperate with the department to promote local, regional, and statewide service delivery systems, to coordinate the delivery of economic development programs and services to businesses in the region, and to participate in the Iowa economic development network.

d. Elect annually a representative to serve on the advisory council established by the department to provide input on the review and update of the state's economic development strategic plan.

e. Conduct an annual inventory of business assistance service providers to businesses within the region and provide a matrix of available technical services to the department.

f. Meet at least quarterly with the board of directors or their designees of the merged area school, any councils of governments serving a substantial portion of the region, and representatives of any small business development center, incubator, representatives of any area quality council, and the center for industrial research and service serving the region to share information, develop plans and programs, and coordinate the delivery of services within the region.

Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 15.306 PRIMARY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

A primary center for economic development programs and services is established in the department of economic development. The primary center shall do all of the following:

1. Implement a comprehensive statewide economic development planning process and provide leadership, coordination, and support to regional and local economic and community development planning efforts.

2. Implement the activities of the Iowa economic development network and coordinate the delivery of economic development and community development programs and services with other local, regional, state, and federal programs and activities.

3. Coordinate planning efforts of the regional coordinating councils in the preparation of annual regional business assistance work plans and provide technical assistance and support to the regional economic development centers.

4. Collect and analyze information and data, develop databases, and perform research to keep abreast of Iowa's present economic base, changing market demands, and emerging trends including identification of targeted markets and development of marketing strategies.

5. Establish a database of products and services available from Iowa businesses to provide businesses with a source for locating buyers for or suppliers of their products and services and utilize the database to provide a noncommissioned brokerage service for facilitating trade by Iowa businesses.

6. Establish a database of community and economic information to aid local, regional, and statewide community development and economic development planning and service delivery efforts.

Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 15.307 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

1. A regional economic development center shall create and stimulate economic development by assisting and supporting entrepreneurs and businesses in the region.

2. A regional economic development center shall do all of the following:

a. Provide outreach to entrepreneurs and businesses and function as a clearinghouse and referral center for information on business assistance programs and services. The regional economic development center shall serve as a liaison between businesses in the region and the Wallace technology transfer foundation of Iowa, the internet foundation, the department, and other business assistance service providers for the purpose of fostering science and technology transfer and international trade opportunities.

b. Develop a support network to create and promote entrepreneurship, business retention, business development, and business expansion within the region.

c. Maintain ongoing communication with other business assistance service providers in the region and coordinate the delivery of programs and services between the service providers and businesses.

d. Assist the regional coordinating council in preparing and implementing the annual regional business assistance work plan and inventory of business assistance service providers.

e. Provide the regional link for the database and information systems of the Iowa economic development network and the primary center. In providing the regional link, the regional economic development center shall do all of the following:

(1) Implement and utilize the department's domestic and international trade lead programs to facilitate trade opportunities for businesses in the region, including updating information for the catalog of products and services, maintaining and updating business profiles, and providing trade lead data.

(2) Provide information and referral to individuals and businesses about available programs and services.

(3) Cooperate with service providers and the primary center in the development and maintenance of a statewide community database.

(4) Provide other information and data concerning the region to the primary center or other sources.

f. Perform other related duties and responsibilities assigned to the regional economic development center as agreed upon in the contract entered into between the department and the regional coordinating council.

Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 15.308 COMMUNITY BUILDER PROGRAM.

1. A community builder program is established in the Iowa department of economic development. The purpose of the program is to encourage a city, cluster of cities, county, group of counties, unincorporated community or group of unincorporated communities to implement planning efforts for community, business, and economic development.

2. A city, cluster of cities, county, group of counties, unincorporated community or group of unincorporated communities which participate and receive certification under this program may be eligible for additional consideration under the following state financial assistance programs:

- a. The community economic betterment account under section 99E.32.
 - b. The community development block grant program.
 - c. The rural community 2000 program under chapter 15.
 - d. Recycling projects under section 455D.15.
 - e. Revitalize Iowa's sound economy fund under chapter 315.
 - f. Programs administered by the Iowa finance authority under chapter 220.
 - g. Water, conservation, or any resource enhancement and protection program under the control of the department of natural resources.
3. A department administering a program under subsection 2 shall adopt administrative rules providing bonus points of not less than five percent and not more than twenty percent of the points available under the program for certified participants under this section.
4. A city, cluster of cities, county, group of counties, unincorporated community or group of unincorporated communities not yet certified under this section but awarded a grant or initiative from the state shall initiate a process to establish a community builder program within six months of the award, to be completed within three years of the receipt of the award.
5. A city, cluster of cities, county, group of counties, unincorporated community, or group of unincorporated communities shall submit a community builder program to the regional coordinating council for coordination, review, and comment and to the department for certification.
6. A community builder program shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following information:
- a. A plan to improve infrastructure, cultural and fine arts resources, housing, primary health care services, and natural resources, conservation, and recreational facilities. The plan shall include a prioritization of identified needs.
 - b. A community database including an inventory and assessment of infrastructure, cultural and fine arts resources, housing, primary health care services, and natural resources, conservation and recreational facilities. The database shall also include an assessment of applicants' participation in a county or regional economic development plan.
 - c. A five-year community economic development strategic plan designed to meet the needs of the community.
 - d. A list of local community programs to encourage economic development including public and private financial resources, an analysis of current and potential local tax revenues, and tax abatement programs.
 - e. A county or regional survey of the available employment and labor force.
7. Contingent on the availability of funding for this purpose, the department may enter into a contract with service providers to provide technical assistance to a city, cluster of cities, county, group of counties, or unincorporated community, or group of unincorporated communities participating in a community builder program.
8. The department shall adopt administrative rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this division.

Sec. 11. Section 28.101, Code 1989, is repealed.

Approved April 4, 1990