

February 14, 1955.  
Appropriation.

H. J. R. 12  
By TAX REVISION COMMITTEE.

Passed House, Date.....  
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....  
Passed Senate, Date.....  
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....  
Approved .....

## A BILL FOR

A Joint Resolution proposing to create a special committee to make a study of taxation embracing the adequacy and equity of the entire structure of state, county, municipal, and school methods of raising revenues, to make special inquiries into the present system of taxation, to make a study of the equalization of real and personal property assessments and exemptions throughout the state as between the various counties of the state and the various taxing districts of the state, to study the question of revision or improvement in the present laws relating to the public revenues of the state and its various political subdivisions and to make such recommendations to the governor and the next session of the legislature as may be decided upon by the committee.

*Be It Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 Section 1. A special committee is hereby created to be  
2 known as the Iowa taxation study committee which shall be a  
3 bipartisan committee of nine (9) members, three of whom shall  
4 be members of the house appointed by the speaker of the house,  
5 three of whom shall be members of the senate appointed by the  
6 president of the senate, and three outside the legislature of  
7 whom shall be appointed by the governor of Iowa.

1 Sec. 2. The committee shall have full power and authority  
2 to investigate, inquire into and examine all matters relating

3 to the adequacy and equity of the provisions for revenue for  
4 the state government and cities and towns, counties, and  
5 school districts of Iowa, and shall make recommendations for  
6 changes deemed advisable for the equalization of taxes for  
7 the support of the state or other political subdivisions, and  
8 in general to inquire into and examine every matter and thing  
9 whatsoever affecting the providing of revenue for governmental  
10 purposes in Iowa, and the administration of laws relating to  
11 taxation.

12 Activities of the committee shall cover, among other things,  
13 the following:

14 a. The present assessment system and methods of equalization  
15 of individual assessments between the various taxing  
16 districts and counties;

17 b. The entire present system of exemptions, credits, and  
18 deductions with respect to all taxes;

19 c. The methods of raising revenues from all other  
20 possible sources than the taxation of real and personal  
21 property, the effects of such methods upon the sources  
22 themselves, and the stability of such revenues in the  
23 future;

24 d. The entire system of state aids to local taxing bodies  
25 and possible replacement of direct property levies as  
26 a source of revenue for local purposes.

1 Sec. 3. Said committee shall choose a chairman from its  
2 members, adopt rules for conduct of its proceedings, and is

3 hereby empowered to employ a secretary and such other employees  
4 as are necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the  
5 committee. It is hereby empowered also to employ such expert  
6 assistance as may be deemed necessary for the studies and in-  
7 vestigations herein authorized including the employment of  
8 recognized survey agencies to assist the committee in arriving  
9 at its conclusions. The committee may hold public hearings,  
10 may subpoena witnesses and compel the production of books,  
11 documents or papers, pertaining to its investigations.  
12 Witnesses shall be entitled to witness fees and to actual  
13 traveling expenses while attending upon the committee, such  
14 expenses to be audited and approved by the committee, but no Iowa  
15 public employee shall be entitled to witness fees, but may be  
16 allowed actual and necessary expenses. The committee shall have  
17 access to all public records and shall be given the cooperation  
18 of all public officials and shall generally have all the powers  
19 of a joint legislative committee. The committee may at any  
20 time or from time to time be divided into subcommittees of one  
21 or more members, any of said subcommittees having the power to  
22 hold hearings and conduct investigations in any part of the  
23 state. The committee may also, if deemed necessary, cause  
24 studies to be made of taxation systems and administration in  
25 other states, and may designate, if necessary, subcommittees for  
26 the purpose of studying revenue methods in other states than  
27 Iowa. The committee or any member thereof, or the secretary of  
28 the committee, shall have the power to administer oaths.

1     Sec. 4. The committee shall have the cooperation of the  
2 state tax commission and its counsel in the performance of its  
3 duties and shall be authorized to call upon any department of  
4 the state government, including state educational institutions,  
5 for assistance in the obtaining of information deemed useful  
6 to the committee.

1     Sec. 5. Should any vacancy occur in the committee, the  
2 governor is empowered to fill it by appointment, in case the  
3 vacancy is that of a member appointed by him. In case of a  
4 vacancy in the legislative membership, the vacancy shall be  
5 filled by the appointment from the representative body to which  
6 such member of the committee belonged, by the speaker of the  
7 house or president of the senate, as the case may be. Members  
8 of the committee shall be reimbursed for the actual and  
9 necessary expenses incurred by them in the discharge of their  
10 duties. Members of the committee appointed by the governor  
11 shall receive a compensation of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per  
12 day for days actually engaged in work of the committee.  
13 Legislative members of the committee shall receive as  
14 compensation such amounts as the Fifty-seventh General Assembly  
15 may allow. The committee shall have power to fix the  
16 compensation of its secretary and other assistants and shall  
17 be provided a suitable office for the conduct of its  
18 investigations by the state executive council.

1     Sec. 6. The committee shall be appointed as promptly as  
2 possible after the enactment of this measure and shall organize

3 as soon thereafter as possible. It shall make its final report,  
4 including drafts of proposed bills, to the governor on or before  
5 January 1, 1956; provided, however, the governor may authorize  
6 such extensions of time to the committee as are necessary.  
7 Thereupon the governor shall cause to be printed the necessary  
8 number of copies of said report including drafts of proposed  
9 bills and cause copies of the same to be mailed to members of  
10 the General Assembly as soon as such report has been completed,  
11 the expense thereof to be paid from funds herein appropriated.  
12 The committee shall be discharged from its duties when it has  
13 submitted its final report to the governor and the legislature.  
14 The governor is hereby requested within thirty (30) days after  
15 the final report is submitted to call a special session of the  
16 General Assembly for consideration of the report of the special  
17 committee and for only such other action as the governor may  
18 recommend.

1 Sec. 7. There is hereby appropriated from any funds of the  
2 state treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of thirty  
3 thousand (\$30,000) dollars, or so much thereof as may be  
4 necessary, to carry out the proposals of this act and for  
5 compensation and expenses of such committee and its members  
6 as herein provided, to be paid out of the state treasury on  
7 vouchers to be approved by the chairman or secretary of the  
8 committee and audited according to law.

1 Sec. 5. This act, being deemed of immediate importance,  
2 shall take effect and be in full force from and after its

- 3 passage and publication in ....., a
- 4 newspaper published at ....., Iowa, and in
- 5 ....., a newspaper published at
- 6 ....., Iowa.

EXPLANATION OF H. J. R. 12

The House joint resolution provides for a special tax committee to study the whole field of Iowa tax action on both the local and state levels. The principal objective of the study is the adequacy and equity of our various Iowa taxes.

The powers of the committee are those of the usual legislative investigating committee. Its duties include submission of a final report to the governor and the legislature, and preparation of necessary tax bills to implement its recommendations for consideration of the legislature. The governor is requested to call a special session of the legislature for the purpose of considering the proposed bills. An appropriation of \$30,000 is provided for.

- 1 Amend House Joint Resolution 12, section seven (7), lines two (2)
- 2 and three (3) by striking the words and figures "thirty thousand
- 3 (\$30,000)" and inserting in lieu thereof the words and figures
- 4 "twenty thousand (\$20,000)".

Filed

March 10, 1955.

By COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.