

# Comment Report

HF 728

A bill for an act relating to noncompliance with rules adopted by a county sanitarian regarding septic tank pumping. (Formerly HSB 222.) Effective date: 07/01/2022.

Subcommittee Members: Driscoll-CH, Smith, J., Williams

Date: 03/29/2021

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: RM 24A

**Name:** Margaret Jaynes

**Comment:** The Story County septic ordinance was adopted in December, 2020 by the Story County Board of Supervisors, and requires all septic tanks (permitted and not permitted) be pumped at least every five years. Routine septic maintenance (pumping the septic tank) every five years is a good thing: Helps keep sewage out of streams, ditches and drainage tiles. Protects public health by reducing contact with human pathogens (virus, bacteria, parasites) found in sewage. Fewer black smelly puddles for kids and pets to play in. Improves water quality by contributing less coliform bacteria, nitrate, phosphate, chemicals and medications to water found in sewage. Saves the home owner money by preventing repairs for clogged laterals and sewage backups into the house. Is affordable: in Story County, the cost to pump and haul away the sewage ranges from \$260 to \$400. The high end reflects excessive digging because the tank location is unknown. This translates to \$7.60/month over a five year period, not bad compared to a municipal sewer service monthly fee. Both EPA and IDNR websites recommend pumping every three to five years. Without penalties or fines, the ordinance will be much more difficult to enforce. I ask you to consider opposing this bill, and allow for counties home rule to enforce regulations that protect public health, property owners investments, and water quality. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. 5153827241