

CHAPTER 592
CITIES AND TOWNS

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592.1 Bonds for garbage disposal plants.

All proceedings of such cities and towns as herein included, heretofore had, subsequent to the adoption of section 696-b [SS 15] by the Thirty-sixth General Assembly, and prior to the passage of this Act*, providing for the issuance of bonds within the limitations of this Act, for the purchase or erection of garbage disposal plants, the vote of the people authorizing such issue and the bonds issued under such proceedings and vote, are hereby legalized and declared legal and valid, the same as though all of the provisions of this Act had been included in said [section 696-b of the Supplemental Supplement to the Code, 1915](#), and such cities may issue and sell such bonds without again submitting such question to vote.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §10414; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §592.1]

[2023 Acts, ch 64, §96](#)

*See 1917 Acts, ch 36717 Acts, ch 367, effective May 1, 1917

592.2 Plats legalized.

None of the provisions of [this chapter](#) [ch 13, title V, Code of 1897] shall be construed to require replatting in any case where plats have been made and recorded in pursuance of law; and all plats heretofore filed for record and not subsequently vacated are hereby declared valid, notwithstanding irregularities and omissions in the required statement or plat, or in the manner or form of acknowledgment, or certificates thereof.

[C73, §571; C97, §929; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §10415; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §592.2]

592.3 City and town plats.

1. a. In all cases where, prior to January 1, 1980, any person has laid out any parcel of land into town or city lots and the plat of the lots has been recorded and the plat appears to be insufficient because of failure to show certificates of the county clerk of the district court, county treasurer, or county recorder, or the affidavit and bond, if any, and the certificate of approval of the local governing body or because the certificates are defective, or because of a failure to fully comply with all of the provisions of [chapter 354](#) of the Code in effect at the time of the recording of the plat, or corresponding statutes of earlier Codes, or because the plat failed to show signatures or acknowledgment of proprietors as provided by law, or because the acknowledgment was defective, and subsequent to the platting, lots or subdivisions of the lots have been sold and conveyed, all such said plats which have not been vacated, are legalized as of the date of the recording of the plat, the same as though all certificates have been attached and all the other necessary steps taken as provided by law, and the record of the plat shall be conclusive evidence that the person was the proprietor of the tract of land and the owner of the tract at the time of the platting, and that the tract of land was free and clear of all encumbrances unless an affidavit to the contrary was filed at the time of recording the plat.

b. After July 1, 1992, no action shall be brought on any cause arising more than ten years earlier or which has been in existence for more than ten years, to establish, enforce, or recover any right, title, interest, lien, or condition existing at the time of the platting, and adverse to a clear and unqualified title in fee simple in the owner unless on or before July 1, 1992, there is filed in the office of county recorder of the county where the real estate involved is located a written statement, acknowledged by the claimant, definitely describing the real

estate involved, stating the nature and extent of the right or interest claimed, and stating the facts upon which the claim is based.

2. a. After July 1, 1992, in all cases where more than ten years earlier, a plat of lots from a parcel of land which has been laid into town or city lots has been recorded and the plat appears to be insufficient, the plat is legalized as of the date of the recording of the plat to the same extent as if the plat did not appear insufficient, if subsequent to the platting, the lots or a subdivision of the lots have been sold and conveyed, and the plats have not been vacated. A plat shall appear insufficient because of one of the following:

(1) A failure to show or a deficiency in a certificate of the county clerk of the district court, county treasurer, or county recorder, or an affidavit and bond, or a certificate of approval of a local governing body.

(2) A failure to fully comply with Code provisions in effect at the time of the recording of the plat.

(3) A failure to show or a deficiency in a signature or acknowledgment of a proprietor as provided by law.

b. The record of the plat shall be conclusive evidence that the person was the proprietor of the tract of land and the owner of the tract at the time of the platting, and that the tract of land was free and clear of all encumbrances unless an affidavit to the contrary was filed at the time of recording the plat.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §10416; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §592.3]

91 Acts, ch 183, §32; 2013 Acts, ch 30, §261

592.4 Making and recording plats.

The acts of the county auditors of Iowa, in making and recording plats as authorized under sections 922, 923, and 924 of the Code of 1897, and sections 6289 through 6299 of subsequent Codes* to and including the Code of 1939, without first having properly signed or acknowledged the same, and the acts of the county recorders of Iowa in recording such plats, are hereby legalized and the same declared valid and binding the same as though they had in such respects been made and recorded in strict compliance with law.

[S13, §924-a; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §10417; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §592.4]

2021 Acts, ch 76, §140

*The cited provisions did not appear at sections 6289 – 6299 until the Code of 1924; see, sections 4079 – 4080 of the Compiled Code of 1919

592.5 Ordinances and proceedings of council.

All acts, motions, proceedings, resolutions, and ordinances heretofore passed or adopted by the council of any city and incorporated towns in the state on the supposition that the mayor was not a member of such council, and which would conform to the law if the mayor had not been a member of said council, shall for all purposes from the date of such act, motion, proceeding, resolution, or ordinance, be considered as valid and legal as they would have been had the mayor not been a member of such body.

[S13, §658-a; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §10418; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §592.5]

592.6 Contracts, elections and ordinances in re libraries.

Where cities or incorporated towns and institutions of learning have established or contracted to establish public libraries to be maintained and controlled jointly as contemplated by this Act,* all contracts, elections, ordinances, and other proceedings made, held, or passed in the manner provided by law are hereby declared as valid and obligatory upon the parties thereto as though the same had been made, held, or passed after the taking effect of this Act.

[S13, §730-a; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §10419; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §592.6]

*See 1904 Acts, ch 24, §3, effective July 4, 1904

592.7 Changing names of streets.

Whereas, certain cities throughout the state of Iowa have passed ordinances changing the name or names of certain streets in the cities;

Now, therefore, it is provided that the acts of the city councils of the cities in enacting the ordinances changing the names of certain streets are hereby declared valid. The proper method for recording a change of street name is found in [section 354.26](#).

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §10420; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §592.7]
[90 Acts, ch 1236, §51](#)

592.8 Taxes for secondary roads.

All taxes heretofore* assessed, levied or collected by any county, for secondary road construction and maintenance purposes, on real and personal property within cities and towns located in any such county, be and the same are hereby declared to be legal and valid, and where the same have not been paid, the officers of such counties are hereby empowered and directed to proceed at once to collect the same as other taxes are collected and to use the same for authorized secondary road construction and maintenance purposes.

[C58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §592.8]

*Effective May 27, 1955

592.9 City utilities and utility boards.

All proceedings taken prior to July 1, 2023, purporting to provide for the establishment, organization, formation, operation, or maintenance of a city utility or utility board and not previously declared invalid by any court, are legalized, validated, and confirmed. All such proceedings are declared to be legally sufficient to create, establish, and authorize the maintenance and operation of a city utility, as defined in [section 362.2, subsection 6](#).

[[81 Acts, ch 187, §1](#)]

[2023 Acts, ch 51, §5](#); [2025 Acts, ch 30, §95](#)

Section amended