



**STATE OF IOWA**  
KIM REYNOLDS  
GOVERNOR

June 2, 2026

The Honorable Paul Pate  
Secretary of State of Iowa  
State Capitol Building  
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit House File 2667, an Act relating to project design standards and specifications, including by providing for a statewide urban design and specifications board and requiring certain reports to city councils regarding noncompliant projects.

While consistency in infrastructure design and coordination between state and local partners are worthwhile objectives, I disapprove of HF2667 because the legislation creates broad new statewide authority without sufficient clarity, accountability, or technical safeguards. Current law allows local jurisdictions to voluntarily utilize SUDAS manuals for public improvements where appropriate. This bill moves far beyond that framework by effectively imposing statewide standards and specifications without clearly defining the scope of "urban design" or identifying which jurisdictions and projects would be subject to the new requirements. Such ambiguity creates substantial uncertainty for local governments, developers, and taxpayers alike.

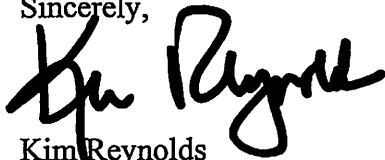
Further, the legislation significantly restructures the composition of the SUDAS board by shifting authority away from professional engineers and public-sector technical experts toward private development interests. Decisions involving statewide engineering specifications and infrastructure standards should remain grounded in technical expertise, public safety, long-term durability, and sound engineering principles. I am also concerned that the bill exempts SUDAS from the normal review and dissolution process for state entities set forth in Iowa Code §4A.5 and thereby reduces legislative oversight and accountability over time.

The bill additionally imposes rigid project requirements that unnecessarily constrain local decision-making and create significant practical concerns. Before approving a project that does not conform to the SUDAS manuals, local officials would be required to submit reports justifying the cost of noncompliance, creating additional administrative burdens and discouraging flexibility for communities facing unique local conditions. At the same time, the legislation prohibits modifications to approved projects after work has begun, yet fails to clearly define when a project is considered to have commenced. That lack of clarity invites confusion, disputes, and inconsistent

enforcement. More importantly, the prohibition on project modifications fails to account for unforeseen circumstances such as soil conditions, environmental concerns, utility conflicts, or other issues commonly discovered during construction. It would also appear to prevent a change order that could reduce costs. Preventing local governments from adapting projects in response to real-world conditions is impractical, risks increased costs and delays, and could ultimately undermine the quality and safety of public infrastructure improvements.

For the above reasons, I respectfully disapprove House File 2667 as specified above, in accordance with Article III, Section 16, of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Reynolds  
Governor

cc: Secretary of the Senate  
Clerk of the House



House File 2667

AN ACT

RELATING TO PROJECT DESIGN STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS,  
INCLUDING BY PROVIDING FOR A STATEWIDE URBAN DESIGN AND  
SPECIFICATIONS BOARD AND REQUIRING CERTAIN REPORTS TO CITY  
COUNCILS REGARDING NONCOMPLIANT PROJECTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 307.22, Code 2026, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 7. Ensure planning and programming activities comply with the statewide urban design standards and specifications developed by the statewide urban design and specifications board pursuant to section 307.22A.

Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 307.22A Statewide urban design and specifications board.

1. The department shall coordinate with the institute for transportation at the Iowa state university of science and technology to oversee a statewide urban design and specifications board that is responsible for developing the statewide urban design standards and specifications. The board shall publish a design manual and a specifications manual on an internet site of the Iowa state university of science and technology.

2. The statewide urban design and specifications board shall consist of the following members:

a. Three employees of the department appointed by the director.

*b.* Two members appointed by the American council of engineering companies.

*c.* One member appointed by the Iowa state association of counties.

*d.* One member appointed by the Iowa league of cities.

*e.* One member appointed by the home builders association of Iowa.

*f.* One member appointed by the associated general contractors of Iowa.

*g.* One member appointed by the master builders of Iowa.

*h.* One member appointed by the asphalt association of Iowa.

*i.* One member appointed by the Iowa real estate developers association.

*j.* One member appointed by the Iowa concrete paving association.

*k.* One member appointed by the associated builders and contractors of Iowa.

*l.* One member appointed by the Iowa state building and construction trades council.

3. Each member of the board appointed by the director, the American council of engineering companies, the Iowa state association of counties, or the Iowa league of cities must be a professional engineer licensed under chapter 542B.

4. The regular term of appointment is four years. A vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.

5. Members of the board shall serve without compensation from the state and are not eligible to receive reimbursement for expenses using state moneys. However, state employees serving on the board shall receive their regular compensation for board duties performed during the hours the person regularly performs work for the state.


6. The statewide urban design and specifications board shall publish on the Iowa state university of science and technology's internet site an analysis of any changes made to the statewide urban design and specifications manuals and provide an estimate of expected cost variations that are likely be incurred, if any, by implementing the changes.


7. The board is not subject to section 4A.5.

Sec. 3. Section 364.3, Code 2026, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

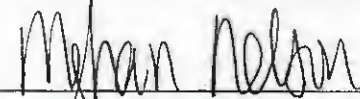
NEW SUBSECTION. 24. a. Prior to a city council approving a city street project that does not match the department of transportation's design standards and specifications, the person responsible for managing the project shall submit a report to the city council describing the costs for the project that will be incurred as a result of the project not matching the department of transportation's design standards and specifications.

b. A city shall not modify the approved project design standards and specifications after a project has begun.

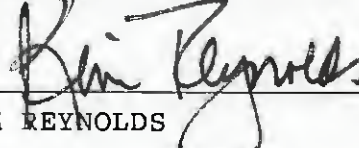
  
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PAT GRASSLEY  
Speaker of the House

  
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AMY SINCLAIR  
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and is known as House File 2667, Ninety-first General Assembly.

  
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MEGHAN NELSON  
Chief Clerk of the House

Disapproved  
ve [Approved] June 20, 2026

  
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KIM REYNOLDS  
Governor