

March 22, 1961.
Passed on File.

House File 642
By COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION.

Passed House, Date.....4-14-61 Passed Senate, Date.....5-2-61
Vote: Ayes.....22 Nays.....0 Vote: Ayes.....43 Nays.....2
Approved.....

A BILL FOR

An Act to permit the executive council to convey certain lands to cities, towns or counties for park purposes.

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

- 1 Section 1. Upon request by resolution of any city, town or
- 2 county or any legal agency thereof, the executive council may,
- 3 upon majority recommendation of the state conservation com-
- 4 mission, convey without consideration to such city, town or
- 5 county or legal agency thereof, such public lands under the juris-
- 6 diction of the commission as in its judgment may be desirable
- 7 for city, town or county parks. Conveyance shall be in the name
- 8 of the state, with the great seal of the state attached and shall
- 9 contain a provision that when such lands cease to be used as
- 10 public park by said city, town or county such lands revert to the
- 11 state, and such park shall, within one year after such land has
- 12 reverted to the state, be restored, as nearly as possible, to the
- 13 condition it was in when acquired by such city, town, county or
- 14 legal agency thereof at the expense of such city, town, county or
- 15 legal agency.
- 16 The state may require that the city, town, county or legal
- 17 agency thereof file a notice of intention every three years.

EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 642

Present laws do not authorize the state to dispose of any of its park lands except by sale by the state executive council. Since the enactment of the county conservation law in 1955 several county conservation boards have indicated an interest in taking over some of the smaller state-owned areas if the lands can be deeded to them without cost. In the past similar requests have come from some cities and towns also. This bill would authorize the state executive council to deed lands to cities, towns or counties

for park purposes upon recommendation of the state conservation commission and upon request of the city, town or county.

Through a law such as this bill proposes, some of the small state-owned areas that are not receiving proper care now could be transferred to other agencies which have an interest in acquiring them.