

WITHDRAWN

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

17

1 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

2 BY FALLON

3 A Concurrent Resolution establishing a special commis-
4 sion to study and make recommendations concerning
5 urban planning, growth management of cities, and
6 protection of farmland and natural resources.

7 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the General Assembly
8 to provide for the orderly use and development of land
9 and related natural resources in the state, to
10 preserve private property rights, to preserve the use
11 of prime agricultural land for agricultural
12 production, to preserve natural, cultural, and
13 historical areas, and to provide for the coordination
14 of comprehensive plans for land use; and

15 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the General Assembly
16 to control urban sprawl, and thereby provide for the
17 protection and preservation of the private and public
18 interest in the land, water, and related resources of
19 this state for the public health, safety, and general
20 welfare, and for the benefit of present and future
21 generations; NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
23 SENATE CONCURRING, That a special commission shall be
24 established within two weeks of the passing of this
25 resolution to study urban planning, growth management,
26 and farmland protection; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special commission
28 shall consist of 17 voting members with diverse
29 expertise in planning, development, design, zoning,
30 annexation, agriculture, housing, taxation, historic

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1 preservation, environmental protection, conservation,
2 and transit, including all of the following:

3 1. Four members of the general assembly with not
4 more than one member from each chamber being from the
5 same political party. The two senators shall be
6 designated by the majority leader of the Senate after
7 consultation with the minority leader of the Senate.
8 The two representatives shall be designated by the
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives after
10 consultation with the majority and minority leaders of
11 the House of Representatives. Of the members from
12 each chamber, one member shall represent a district
13 which is primarily urban, while the other member shall
14 represent a district which is primarily rural.

15 2. One member appointed by the Governor.

16 3. The executive director of the Iowa Farm Bureau
17 Federation or a designee of the executive director.

18 4. The executive director of the Iowa Farmers'
19 Union or a designee of the executive director.

20 5. The executive director of the Iowa League of
21 Cities or a designee of the executive director.

22 6. The executive director of the Iowa State
23 Association of Counties or a designee of the executive
24 director.

25 7. The chairperson of the Department of Community
26 and Regional Planning in the College of Design at Iowa
27 State University of Science and Technology.

28 8. The president of the Iowa Chapter of the
29 American Planning Association or a designee of the
30 president.

1 9. The executive director of the Associated
2 Builders and Contractors of Iowa or a designee of the
3 executive director.

4 10. The executive director of the Iowa
5 Environmental Council or a designee of the executive
6 director.

7 11. The executive director of the Iowa Historic
8 Preservation Alliance or a designee of the executive
9 director.

10 12. The executive director of the Iowa Public
11 Transit Association or a designee of the executive
12 director.

13 13. The executive director of the Iowa Chapter of
14 the American Institute of Architects or a designee of
15 the executive director.

16 14. The executive director of the Iowa Natural
17 Heritage Foundation or a designee of the executive
18 director; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the co-chairpersons of
20 the special commission shall be the General Assembly
21 members of the majority party from each chamber; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special commission
23 shall do all of the following:

24 1. Survey the status of Iowa farmland and natural
25 areas over the past 20 years to determine how much of
26 these areas has been converted to residential,
27 commercial, or industrial use. The survey shall also
28 report on the agricultural quality of the farmland
29 converted to residential, commercial, or industrial
30 use.

- 1 2. Conduct a survey of the problems facing the
2 state's cities including, but not limited to, problems
3 involving crime, poverty, infrastructure, housing, and
4 taxes.
- 5 3. Evaluate the effectiveness of current state,
6 regional, and local planning and zoning laws and
7 assess their impact on the farmland, natural areas,
8 and cities of the state.
- 9 4. Survey property developers, builders,
10 contractors, planners, engineers, surveyors,
11 environmentalists, attorneys, citizen groups, and
12 state and local government agencies about problems
13 associated with the current planning system and seek
14 their advice on solutions to those problems.
- 15 5. Review model legislation and studies on
16 planning and land-use systems and collect information
17 on states that have undertaken reform efforts and have
18 working systems.
- 19 6. Identify incentives or techniques for sharing
20 the benefits of economic growth and eliminating or
21 reducing fiscal competition among local governments.
- 22 7. During October and November 1997, hold public
23 hearings in Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Waterloo/Cedar
24 Falls, Mason City, Burlington, Bettendorf/Davenport,
25 Iowa City, Dubuque, Sioux City, and Council Bluffs to
26 share the initial findings of the special commission
27 and solicit public comment and input on steps that
28 might be taken to address the charge of the special
29 commission.
- 30 8. Propose innovative and cooperative planning and

1 land-use approaches that will protect farmland,
2 accommodate and guide growth and development, ensure
3 the planning and construction of adequate supporting
4 services and infrastructure including utilities, storm
5 water management systems, and transportation, provide
6 opportunities for or eliminate barriers to affordable
7 housing, protect the environment, minimize exposure to
8 natural hazards, and generally address the concerns
9 outlined in this resolution.

10 9. At the discretion of the special commission,
11 hold a second series of public hearings in the fall of
12 1998; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special commission
14 shall convene each month beginning no more than one
15 month after this resolution is passed; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special commission
17 shall submit an interim report to the General Assembly
18 no later than January 1, 1998, which shall include,
19 but not be limited to, a status report of the
20 commission's actions and an explanation of future
21 plans; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special commission
23 shall submit a final report to the General Assembly no
24 later than December 1, 1998, which shall include, but
25 not be limited to, findings, analysis, and
26 recommendations by the special commission; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special commission
28 shall be staffed by the Department of Agriculture and
29 Land Stewardship; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislative

1 Council pursuant to its authority in section 2.43 may
2 allocate from moneys available to it in section 2.12,
3 to the special commission created in this resolution
4 for studies, consultants, surveys, and reimbursement
5 of the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

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