

FEB 24 1999

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE  
BY FORD

396

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the appointment of boards, commissions,  
2 committees, or other multimember appointive bodies in certain  
3 cities and counties.

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

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HF 396

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 69.16B RACIAL REPRESENTATION AND  
2 GENDER BALANCE ON LOCAL COMMITTEES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS.

3 1. In addition to other qualifications for appointment  
4 which may be required, when a mayor or other appointing  
5 authority of a city or county appoints a board, commission,  
6 committee, or other multimember appointive body of the city or  
7 county, the membership shall be gender balanced and shall be  
8 racially balanced to reflect the ratio of the various racial  
9 groups to the general population of the city or county. If  
10 the total membership is odd-numbered, a person shall not be  
11 appointed or reappointed to a board, commission, committee, or  
12 other multimember body of a city or county if that appointment  
13 or reappointment would cause the number of members of the body  
14 of one gender to be more than one-half of the total membership  
15 plus one. If the total membership is even-numbered, not more  
16 than one-half of the membership shall be of one gender.

17 2. The requirement of racial and gender balance pursuant  
18 to subsection 1 applies in a city or a county having a  
19 population of fifty thousand or more, in a city which is  
20 contiguous to another city having a population of fifty  
21 thousand or more, and in a city which is contiguous to another  
22 city which is in turn contiguous to another city having a  
23 population of fifty thousand or more.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This bill requires that the mayor or other appointive  
26 authority of a city or county make gender balanced  
27 appointments to local boards, committees, commissions, or  
28 other multimember appointive bodies and that racially balanced  
29 appointments shall be made to reflect the ratio of the various  
30 racial groups to the general population of the city or county.

31 The racial and gender balance requirement applies to a city  
32 or a county having a population of 50,000 or more, in a city  
33 which is contiguous to another city having a population of  
34 50,000 or more, and in a city which is contiguous to another  
35 city which is in turn contiguous to another city having a

1 population of 50,000 or more.

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