

3/2/99 Referred to State Hwy.

MAR 7 1999  
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 420  
BY FORD

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to a study by the department of cultural affairs  
2 concerning the establishment of an Iowa freedom trail program.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 420

1 Section 1. IOWA FREEDOM TRAIL STUDY. The department of  
2 cultural affairs shall conduct a study to explore the  
3 establishment of an Iowa freedom trail program designed to  
4 preserve and commemorate the underground railroad and educate  
5 the public on issues related to the underground railroad. The  
6 department shall explore the possibility of securing the  
7 cooperation and assistance of the national park service in  
8 developing and implementing the program. The program would be  
9 intended to locate, identify, and preserve sites, routes, and  
10 other resources located in the state which served a function  
11 in the underground railroad in the state. The program would  
12 identify and provide recognition of any citizens of the state  
13 who were instrumental in the underground railroad. The  
14 department shall submit a report on the study, and make  
15 recommendations, to the general assembly by January 1, 2000.

16 EXPLANATION

17 This bill requires that the department of cultural affairs  
18 shall conduct a study to explore the establishment of an Iowa  
19 freedom trail program. The bill provides that the department  
20 shall explore the possibility of securing the cooperation and  
21 assistance of the national park service in developing and  
22 implementing a program which preserves, commemorates, and  
23 educates the public on the underground railroad. The bill  
24 provides that the program would be intended to locate,  
25 identify, and preserve sites, routes, and other resources  
26 located in the state which served a function in the  
27 underground railroad in the state, and identify and provide  
28 recognition of any citizens of the state who were instrumental  
29 in the underground railroad. The department shall submit a  
30 report on the study to the general assembly by January 1,  
31 2000.

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**HOUSE FILE 420  
FISCAL NOTE**

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A fiscal note for House File 420 is hereby submitted pursuant to Joint Rule 17. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

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House File 420 provides that the Commission on the Status of African-Americans of the Department of Human Rights shall develop, implement, and operate an Iowa Freedom Trail Program. The purpose of the Program is to locate, identify, and preserve sites, routes, and other resources located in the State which served a function in the underground railroad in the State. The Program will also recognize citizens of the State who were instrumental in the underground railroad.

**ASSUMPTIONS**

1. The Department of Human Rights will work in conjunction with the assistance and cooperation of the National Park Service.
2. The National Park Service would conduct a study costing between \$40,000 to \$60,000.
3. The Status of African Americans in the Department of Human Rights would add one additional FTE position for a Program Planner at a salary of \$38,000 annually.
4. The actual number of historical sites across the State is unknown, however, the cost per site is estimated at \$1,000 per site marker. It is anticipated that 20 sites could be marked each year.
5. The Department of Human Rights estimates that the publicity costs for this project would be \$5,000 a year.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The General Fund impact on the Department of Human Rights would be \$94,000 annually and each year thereafter. The U.S. Park Service may provide some funding but the estimate assumes that no future funding would be available.

**SOURCES**

Department of Human Rights  
National Park Service

(LSB 2409hh, JDD)

FILED MARCH 22, 1999

BY DENNIS PROUTY, FISCAL DIRECTOR