

Senate Study Bill 1209

Bill Text

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1 1 Section 1. IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY LAND USE POLICIES STUDY.
1 2 The general assembly recognizes the importance of preserving
1 3 the state's finite supply of agricultural land. It is the
1 4 intent of the general assembly and the policy of this state to
1 5 provide for the orderly use and development of land and
1 6 related natural resources in Iowa for residential, commercial,
1 7 industrial, and recreational purposes. It is further the
1 8 intent of the general assembly to use state and local tax
1 9 policy and other state policies as incentives to encourage
1 10 smart and orderly growth in the state of Iowa. It is further
1 11 the policy of the state to discourage conversion of prime
1 12 agricultural land to other uses while providing for a balance
1 13 between legitimate public purposes and private property
1 14 rights.
1 15 Iowa state university shall conduct a study of land use
1 16 policies in this state and in other states. The study shall
1 17 consider policies discouraging conversion of agricultural
1 18 land, such as the limitation on the power of public agencies
1 19 to impose special assessments on agricultural land,
1 20 limitations on the ability to declare a farm or farm operation
1 21 a nuisance, and imposition of a state regulatory scheme that
1 22 is less restrictive on farms or farm operations. The study
1 23 shall also consider the feasibility and potential uses of the
1 24 preparation of county land inventories under chapter 352 and
1 25 the creation or expansion of agricultural areas under chapter
1 26 352.
1 27 The study shall review Iowa's annexation laws, including
1 28 city development board authority and requirements relating to
1 29 annexation of land. The study shall review Iowa's zoning laws
1 30 and requirements relating to comprehensive plans.
1 31 The study shall include a review of smart growth policies
1 32 in other states. The university shall identify the types of
1 33 smart growth policies currently being used in this state and
1 34 in others whose use in this state would be feasible and
1 35 effective. The university shall, in the study, give
2 1 particular attention to smart growth policies which prohibit
2 2 financial assistance to those cities and counties that are not
2 3 adhering to a comprehensive or other strategic development
2 4 plan.
2 5 The study shall review current state and local tax
2 6 assessments and incentives that encourage development and
2 7 affect, directly or indirectly, the course of development in
2 8 the state. The university shall also study local government
2 9 economic development programs and infrastructure finance
2 10 programs and the effect of those programs on development. The
2 11 study shall give particular attention to finding a balance
2 12 between state and local policies and taxation that require
2 13 increased government regulation and those providing the
2 14 private sector an incentive to act in a way that furthers
2 15 state and local land use policies.
2 16 Iowa state university may request from any state agency or
2 17 official the information and assistance needed to perform the
2 18 study.
2 19 Iowa state university shall submit a final report and an
2 20 executive summary of the final report to the general assembly
2 21 no later than January 2, 2002. The final report and executive

2 22 summary shall contain suggested goals for the state regarding
2 23 land use and recommendations for utilization of a smart growth
2 24 policy.

2 25 EXPLANATION

2 26 This bill requires Iowa state university to conduct a study
2 27 of land use policies. The university is required to study
2 28 current state and local tax incentives for development of land
2 29 and related natural resources. The university also is
2 30 required to study policies in place in the state of Iowa which
2 31 discourage conversion of agricultural land. The study is
2 32 required to consider the feasibility of preparation of county
2 33 land use inventories and the creation or expansion of
2 34 agricultural areas.

2 35 The university is required to study Iowa's annexation laws
3 1 and zoning laws.

3 2 The study is also required to review smart growth policies
3 3 in other states and those currently being used in the state of
3 4 Iowa. Smart growth policies which are to be focused upon
3 5 include those that prohibit financial assistance to cities and
3 6 counties that do not adhere to a comprehensive plan or other
3 7 strategic development plan.

3 8 The university is required to study whether current state
3 9 and local tax incentives encourage or affect development. The
3 10 university is to study local government economic development
3 11 programs and infrastructure finance programs and their effect
3 12 on development. The study shall give attention to government
3 13 regulation and government incentives regarding land use
3 14 polices.

3 15 Iowa state university is required to submit a final report
3 16 and executive summary to the general assembly no later than
3 17 January 2, 2002. The final report and executive summary of
3 18 the final report shall contain suggested goals for the state
3 19 regarding land use and recommendations for utilization of a
3 20 smart growth policy.

3 21 LSB 3120SC 79

3 22 sc/cls/14.1