

FEB 25 2003  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 296  
BY D. HANSON

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to local conference boards, including setting the  
2 quorum for conduct of business by a board, and setting limits  
3 for certain salaries authorized by a board.

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

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HF 296

1 Section 1. Section 441.2, Code 2003, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 441.2 CONFERENCE BOARD.

4 In each county and each city having an assessor there shall  
5 be established a conference board. In counties the conference  
6 board shall consist of the mayors of all incorporated cities  
7 in the county whose property is assessed by the county  
8 assessor, one representative from the board of directors of  
9 each high school district of the county, who is a resident of  
10 the county, said board of directors appointing said  
11 representative for a one-year term and notifying the clerk of  
12 the conference board as to their representative, and members  
13 of the board of supervisors. In cities having an assessor the  
14 conference board shall consist of the members of the city  
15 council, school board, and county board of supervisors. In  
16 the counties the chairperson of the board of supervisors shall  
17 act as chairperson of the conference board, in cities having  
18 an assessor the mayor of the city council shall act as  
19 chairperson of the conference board. In any action taken by  
20 the conference board, the mayors of all incorporated cities in  
21 the county whose property is assessed by the county assessor  
22 shall constitute one voting unit, the members of the city  
23 board of education or one representative from the board of  
24 directors of each high school district of the county shall  
25 constitute one voting unit, the members of the city council  
26 shall constitute one voting unit, and the county board of  
27 supervisors shall constitute one voting unit, each unit having  
28 a single vote and no action shall be valid except by the vote  
29 of not less than two out of the three units. The majority  
30 vote of the members present of each unit shall determine the  
31 vote of the unit. A majority of the members of each voting  
32 unit must be in attendance for purposes of constituting a  
33 quorum to conduct business and take action under this chapter.  
34 The assessor shall be clerk of the conference board.

35 Sec. 2. Section 441.16, Code 2003, is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 441.16 BUDGET.

3 1. All expenditures under this chapter shall be paid as  
4 hereinafter provided in this section.

5 2. Not later than January 1 of each year the assessor, the  
6 examining board, and the board of review, shall each prepare a  
7 proposed budget of all expenses for the ensuing fiscal year.  
8 The assessor shall include in the proposed budget the probable  
9 expenses for defending assessment appeals. ~~Said~~ The budgets  
10 shall be combined by the assessor and copies ~~thereof~~ of the  
11 combined budgets forthwith filed by the assessor in triplicate  
12 with the chairperson of the conference board.

13 ~~Such~~ The combined budgets shall contain an itemized list of  
14 the proposed salaries of the assessor and each deputy, the  
15 amount required for field personnel and other personnel, their  
16 number and their compensation; the estimated amount needed for  
17 expenses, printing, mileage and other expenses necessary to  
18 operate the assessor's office, the estimated expenses of the  
19 examining board and the salaries and expenses of the local  
20 board of review.

21 3. Each fiscal year the chairperson of the conference  
22 board shall, by written notice, call a meeting of the  
23 conference board to consider the proposed budget and to comply  
24 with section 24.9.

25 At ~~such~~ the meeting the conference board shall authorize:

26 ~~1-~~ a. The number of deputies, field personnel, and other  
27 personnel of the assessor's office.

28 ~~2-~~ b. The salaries and compensation of members of the  
29 board of review, the assessor, chief deputy, other deputies,  
30 field personnel, and other personnel, and determine the time  
31 and manner of payment. When authorizing the annual salary of  
32 the assessor, the conference board shall take into account the  
33 annual salaries of the county auditor, the county treasurer,  
34 and the county recorder. The annual salary of the chief  
35 deputy shall be an amount not to exceed eighty percent of the

1 annual salary of the assessor. In offices where more than one  
2 deputy is required, each additional deputy shall be paid an  
3 amount not to exceed seventy-five percent of the assessor's  
4 salary. The conference board shall not authorize a deputy's  
5 salary which exceeds the limitations of this paragraph.

6 ~~3.~~ c. The miscellaneous expenses of the assessor's office,  
7 the board of review and the examining board, including office  
8 equipment, records, supplies, and other required items.

9 ~~4.~~ d. The estimated expense of assessment appeals. All  
10 such expense items shall be included in the budget adopted for  
11 the ensuing year.

12 4. All tax levies and expenditures provided for herein in  
13 this chapter shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 24  
14 and the conference board is hereby declared to be the  
15 certifying board.

16 5. Any tax for the maintenance of the office of assessor  
17 and other assessment procedure shall be levied only upon the  
18 property in the area assessed by said assessor and such tax  
19 levy shall not exceed forty and one-half cents per thousand  
20 dollars of assessed value in assessing areas where the  
21 valuation upon which the tax is levied does not exceed ninety-  
22 two million, six hundred thousand dollars; thirty-three and  
23 three-fourths cents per thousand dollars of assessed value in  
24 assessing areas where the valuation upon which the tax is  
25 levied exceeds ninety-two million, six hundred thousand  
26 dollars and does not exceed one hundred eleven million, one  
27 hundred twenty thousand dollars; twenty-seven cents per  
28 thousand dollars of assessed value in assessing areas where  
29 the valuation upon which the tax is levied exceeds one hundred  
30 eleven million, one hundred twenty thousand dollars. The  
31 county treasurer shall credit the sums received from such levy  
32 to a separate fund to be known as the "assessment expense  
33 fund" and from which fund all expenses incurred under this  
34 chapter shall be paid. In the case of a county where there is  
35 more than one assessor the treasurer shall maintain separate

1 assessment expense funds for each assessor.

2 6. The county auditor shall keep a complete record of ~~said~~  
3 the separate assessment expense funds and shall issue warrants  
4 thereon on a fund only on requisition of the assessor.

5 7. The assessor shall not issue requisitions so as to  
6 increase the total expenditures budgeted for the operation of  
7 the assessor's office. However, for purposes of promoting  
8 operational efficiency, the assessor shall have authority to  
9 transfer funds budgeted for specific items for the operation  
10 of the assessor's office from one unexpended balance to  
11 another; such transfer shall not be made so as to increase the  
12 total amount budgeted for the operation of the office of  
13 assessor, and no funds shall be used to increase the salary of  
14 the assessor or the salaries of permanent deputy assessors.  
15 The assessor shall issue requisitions for the examining board  
16 and for the board of review on order of the chairperson of  
17 each board and for costs and expenses incident to assessment  
18 appeals, only on order of the city legal department, in the  
19 case of cities and of the county attorney in the case of  
20 counties.

21 8. Unexpended funds remaining in the assessment expense  
22 fund at the end of a year shall be carried forward into the  
23 next year.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This bill sets certain requirements for local conference  
26 boards.

27 Current law provides that the local conference board for  
28 counties shall consist of the mayors of all the cities in the  
29 county, one director from the board of each high school  
30 district in the county, and the members of the board of  
31 supervisors. For cities, the conference board consists of all  
32 the members of the city council, all the members of the school  
33 board located in the city, and all the members of the board of  
34 supervisors. For city and county conference boards, each of  
35 these three groups constitutes one voting unit on the board.

1 The bill provides that a quorum of the conference board  
2 necessary to conduct business and take action shall be  
3 achieved when a majority of the members of each voting unit  
4 are present.

5 The bill provides that when a conference board authorizes  
6 the salary of a city or county assessor, the board is to  
7 consider the salaries of the county auditor, treasurer, and  
8 recorder. The bill also provides that the salary authorized  
9 by the board for the chief deputy assessor shall not exceed 80  
10 percent of the assessor's salary and the salaries authorized  
11 for additional deputies shall not exceed 75 percent of the  
12 assessor's salary.

13 The bill also amends Code section 441.16 to number  
14 subsections and to remove archaic language.

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