

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY LENSING

A Resolution relating to the maintenance of the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs as a separate department within state government.

WHEREAS, around 19 percent of Iowa's population is comprised of Iowans 60 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs is the primary state agency dedicated to advocacy for Iowans 60 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs serves as the state unit on aging that each state is required to have by the federal Older Americans Act; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs' responsibilities as the state unit on aging include coordinating all state activities related to the purposes of the federal Act to provide community-level systems of services that meet the unique needs of older persons, developing a state plan on aging, and serving as an effective and visible advocate for older persons before any agency, organization, association, or individual representing the needs of elders; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs also provides educational and prevention services to older Iowans to ensure that they find Iowa a healthy, safe, productive, and enjoyable place to live and work; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 Older Iowans Legislature recognized that the responsibilities and functions of the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs can best be

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1 served by an independent agency dedicated solely to
2 the needs of older Iowans and thereby recommended
3 maintaining the department as a freestanding
4 department within state government; NOW THEREFORE,
5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
6 That the House of Representatives agrees with the
7 delegates of the 2002 Older Iowans Legislature that
8 the best way to ensure that the needs of older Iowans
9 are well served is to maintain the Iowa Department of
10 Elder Affairs as a separate freestanding department
11 with an 11-member commission, seven of whom shall be
12 appointed by the Governor.

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