

FILED JAN 21 '03

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO.

BY BOLKCOM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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STATE GOVERNMENT

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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 SENATE, That the Senate
6 agrees with the delegates of the 2002 Older Iowans
7 Legislature that the best way to ensure that the needs
8 of older Iowans are well served is to maintain the
9 Iowa Department of Elder Affairs as a separate
10 freestanding department with an 11-member commission,
11 seven of whom shall be appointed by the Governor.

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