

# House File 2531 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
GROWTH

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 622)

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

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to programs administered by the commission on  
2 volunteer service by establishing Iowa summer youth corps and  
3 green corps programs, creating the Iowa summer youth corps  
4 account and making appropriations from the account, excluding  
5 certain payments provided to an AmeriCorps volunteer from  
6 state income tax, and providing a retroactive applicability  
7 provision.  
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
9 TLSB 5497HV 82  
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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 15H.5 IOWA SUMMER YOUTH CORPS.  
1 2 1. For the purposes of this section, "service=learning"  
1 3 means a teaching and learning strategy that integrates  
1 4 meaningful community service with instruction and reflection  
1 5 to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility,  
1 6 and strengthen communities.  
1 7 2. The Iowa summer youth corps program is established to  
1 8 provide meaningful summer enrichment programming to Iowa  
1 9 youth. The program shall be administered by the Iowa  
1 10 commission on volunteer service using a competitive grant  
1 11 process to implement projects in accordance with program  
1 12 requirements. The commission shall adopt administrative rules  
1 13 for the program, including but not limited to incentives,  
1 14 grant criteria, and grantee selection processes. A percentage  
1 15 of the grants shall be designated by the commission to address  
1 16 the needs of city enterprise zones that meet the distress  
1 17 criteria outlined in section 15E.194.  
1 18 3. The program shall provide grants for projects that  
1 19 utilize a service=learning approach during the summer months  
1 20 to enhance student achievement and summer learning retention,  
1 21 teach meaningful job skills to Iowa youth, engage Iowa youth  
1 22 in their communities, provide positive youth development  
1 23 experiences, and address the needs of youth from families with  
1 24 low income. The service=learning approach shall be integrated  
1 25 into the program using science, technology, engineering,  
1 26 mathematics, social studies, civic literacy, or other  
1 27 appropriate curricula identified by the department of  
1 28 education.  
1 29 4. The program shall involve the youth participating in  
1 30 the program in service=learning activities with one or more of  
1 31 the following focuses:  
1 32 a. Energy conservation in the youth's community, including  
1 33 conducting educational outreach on energy conservation and  
1 34 working to improve energy efficiency in low=income housing and  
1 35 public spaces.  
2 1 b. Emergency and disaster preparedness.  
2 2 c. Improving access to and obtaining the benefits from  
2 3 providing computers and other emerging technologies in public  
2 4 settings, including in low=income or rural communities, senior  
2 5 centers and communities, schools, libraries, and other public  
2 6 settings.  
2 7 d. Mentoring of middle school youth while involving all  
2 8 participants in service=learning to address unmet human,  
2 9 educational, environmental, public safety, or emergency  
2 10 disaster preparedness needs in the participants' community.  
2 11 e. Establishing or implementing summer of service projects  
2 12 during the summer months. Budgeting for a summer of service

2 13 project shall include the cost of recruitment, training, and  
2 14 placement of service-learning coordinators. A summer of  
2 15 service project shall comply with all of the following  
2 16 requirements:

2 17 (1) Youth participating in a project will be enrolled in  
2 18 grades six through twelve in the school year which begins  
2 19 immediately following the end of a project.

2 20 (2) The focus of each project shall be community-based  
2 21 service-learning activities that address unmet human,  
2 22 educational, environmental, emergency and disaster  
2 23 preparedness, and public service needs. Environmental needs  
2 24 addressed may include energy conservation, water quality, and  
2 25 land stewardship.

2 26 (3) The activities for each project shall be intensive,  
2 27 structured, supervised, and designed to produce identifiable  
2 28 improvements to the community. The activities may include the  
2 29 extension of school year service-learning programs into the  
2 30 summer months.

2 31 5. a. Funding for the Iowa summer youth corps program  
2 32 shall be paid from appropriations and other funds credited to  
2 33 the Iowa summer youth corps account for purposes of the  
2 34 program, which account shall be created within the department  
2 35 of economic development under the authority of the commission.

3 1 Moneys available in the account for a fiscal year are  
3 2 appropriated to the commission to be used for the program.

3 3 b. The commission shall manage the program in a manner to  
3 4 maximize the leveraging of federal, local, and private funding  
3 5 opportunities that increase or amplify program impact and  
3 6 service-learning opportunities. The commission shall also  
3 7 encourage collaboration with, and utilization of, other  
3 8 national, local, and nonprofit programs engaged in community  
3 9 service or addressing the needs of youth from families with  
3 10 low income.

3 11 c. The commission shall give priority consideration to  
3 12 approving those projects that target communities that have  
3 13 disproportionately high rates of juvenile crime or low rates  
3 14 of high school graduation or that have been designated as city  
3 15 enterprise zones that meet the distress criteria outlined in  
3 16 section 15E.194.

3 17 d. The commission shall include progress information  
3 18 concerning implementation of the program in the quarterly  
3 19 reports made to the governor and general assembly in  
3 20 accordance with section 15H.2.

3 21 6. a. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of chapter  
3 22 8A, subchapter IV, or chapter 96, a person participating in  
3 23 the Iowa summer youth corps program shall be exempt from merit  
3 24 system requirements and shall not be eligible to receive  
3 25 unemployment compensation benefits.

3 26 b. If a stipend is provided to a youth participating in  
3 27 the program, the youth shall be age fourteen through eighteen.

3 28 c. A youth participating in a summer of service project  
3 29 that either has an education award or no compensation shall  
3 30 comply with the grade level requirements specified for summer  
3 31 of service project participation.

3 32 d. A project that uses funding for an AmeriCorps young  
3 33 adult component within the project design shall limit  
3 34 participation in the component to young adults who are age  
3 35 eighteen through twenty-five at the time of enrollment in the  
4 1 project.

4 2 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 15H.6 IOWA GREEN CORPS PROGRAM.

4 3 1. The Iowa commission on volunteer service, in  
4 4 collaboration with the department of natural resources, the  
4 5 department of workforce development, and the utilities board  
4 6 of the department of commerce shall establish an Iowa green  
4 7 corps program. The commission shall work with the  
4 8 collaborating agencies and nonprofit agencies in developing a  
4 9 strategy for attracting additional financial resources for the  
4 10 program from other sources which may include but are not  
4 11 limited to private utilities, local municipalities, and  
4 12 federal funding sources.

4 13 2. The program shall utilize AmeriCorps or Iowa summer  
4 14 youth corps program volunteers to provide capacity building  
4 15 activities, training, and implementation of major  
4 16 transformative projects in communities. The project selection  
4 17 shall emphasize energy efficiency, historic preservation,  
4 18 neighborhood development, and storm water reduction and  
4 19 management.

4 20 3. The capacity building activities shall be targeted in  
4 21 communities that are already working with existing community  
4 22 improvement programs, including but not limited to the Iowa  
4 23 great places program established under section 303.3C and the

4 24 green streets program administered by the department of  
4 25 economic development.  
4 26 Sec. 3. Section 422.7, Code Supplement 2007, is amended by  
4 27 adding the following new subsection:  
4 28 NEW SUBSECTION. 23. Subtract, to the extent included, the  
4 29 amount of AmeriCorps living allowance payments and federal  
4 30 Segal education award payments.  
4 31 Sec. 4. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. The provision of this  
4 32 Act amending section 422.7 is retroactively applicable to  
4 33 January 1, 2008, and is applicable on and after that date.

4 34 EXPLANATION

4 35 This bill relates to youth employment programs administered  
5 1 by the commission on volunteer service by establishing the  
5 2 Iowa summer youth corps and green corps programs, creating the  
5 3 Iowa summer youth corps account and making appropriations from  
5 4 the account, excluding certain payments provided to an  
5 5 AmeriCorps volunteer from state income tax, and providing a  
5 6 retroactive applicability provision.

5 7 New Code section 15H.5 establishes the Iowa summer youth  
5 8 corps program under the authority of the commission to provide  
5 9 meaningful summer enrichment programming to Iowa youth,  
5 10 requires the program to be implemented by issuing competitive  
5 11 grants for projects, requires the commission to designate a  
5 12 percentage of the grants to address the needs of city  
5 13 enterprise zones that meet the distress criteria under Code  
5 14 section 15E.194, defines the term "service-learning", requires  
5 15 the participating youth to be engaged with various specified  
5 16 service-learning activities, outlines requirements for "summer  
5 17 of service" projects for youth who will be entering grades six  
5 18 through 12, creates an Iowa summer youth corps account, and  
5 19 appropriates any funding available in the account to the  
5 20 commission for the program.

5 21 A participant in the youth corps program is exempt from  
5 22 state merit system requirements and is not eligible to receive  
5 23 unemployment compensation benefits. If a stipend is provided,  
5 24 the participant must be age 14 through 18. If a project uses  
5 25 funding for an AmeriCorps young adult component, participation  
5 26 in the component is limited to young adults who are age 18  
5 27 through 25 at the time of enrollment.

5 28 New Code section 15H.6 directs the commission on volunteer  
5 29 service, in collaboration with the departments of natural  
5 30 resources and workforce development, and the utilities board,  
5 31 to establish an Iowa green corps program. The program is  
5 32 required to use AmeriCorps or Iowa summer youth corps program  
5 33 volunteers to provide capacity building activities, training,  
5 34 and implementation of major transformative projects in  
5 35 communities. The project selection shall emphasize energy  
6 1 efficiency, historic preservation, neighborhood development,  
6 2 and storm water reduction and management. The capacity  
6 3 building activities are required to be targeted to communities  
6 4 that are already working with existing community improvement  
6 5 programs.

6 6 Code section 422.7 is amended to exclude from state  
6 7 individual income tax the amount of AmeriCorps living  
6 8 allowance payments and federal Segal education award payments.  
6 9 This provision applies retroactively to January 1, 2008, for  
6 10 tax years beginning on or after that date.

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