

# House Study Bill 733

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to economic development by creating a sustainable  
2 community development initiative.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 5708XL 82  
5 tw/rj/5

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1 1 Section 1. Section 15.109, Code 2007, is amended to read  
1 2 as follows:  
1 3 15.109 ADDITIONAL DUTIES.  
1 4 1. The department of economic development shall coordinate  
1 5 the development of state and local government programs in  
1 6 order to promote efficient and economic use of federal, state,  
1 7 local, and private resources. ~~The department shall-~~  
1 8 ~~1- 2. Provide~~ The department shall provide technical and  
1 9 financial assistance to local and regional government  
1 10 organizations in Iowa, analyze intergovernmental relations in  
1 11 Iowa, and recommend policies to state agencies, local  
1 12 governments, the governor, and the general assembly.  
1 13 ~~2- 3. Apply~~ The department shall apply for, receive,  
1 14 administer, and use federal or other funds available for  
1 15 achieving the purposes of this chapter. For purposes of this  
1 16 subsection, the term "federal funds" includes federal tax  
1 17 credits, grants, or other economic benefits allocated or  
1 18 provided by the United States government to encourage  
1 19 investment in low-income or other specified areas or to  
1 20 otherwise promote economic development.  
1 21 a. The department may enter into an agreement pursuant to  
1 22 chapter 28E, or any other agreement, with a person, including  
1 23 for-profit and nonprofit legal entities, in order to directly  
1 24 or indirectly apply for, receive, administer, and use federal  
1 25 funds.  
1 26 b. As part of such agreements and in furtherance of this  
1 27 public purpose and in addition to powers and duties conferred  
1 28 under other provisions of law, the department may, including  
1 29 for or on behalf of for-profit or nonprofit legal entities,  
1 30 appoint, remove, and replace board members and advisors;  
1 31 provide oversight; make its personnel and resources available  
1 32 to perform administrative, management, and compliance  
1 33 functions; coordinate investments; and engage in other acts as  
1 34 reasonable and necessary to encourage investment in low-income  
1 35 or other areas or to promote economic development.  
2 1 c. The department, including department officials and  
2 2 employees in their official and personal capacities, are  
2 3 immune from liability for all acts or omissions under this  
2 4 subsection.  
2 5 ~~3- 4.~~ At the time the department approves assistance for  
2 6 an applicant, the department shall provide the person with  
2 7 information regarding the nature and source of other technical  
2 8 assistance available in the state to assist the applicant on  
2 9 design and management matters concerning energy efficiency and  
2 10 waste reduction. The department shall review the extent to  
2 11 which recommendations made to grantees are in fact implemented  
2 12 by the grantees.  
2 13 5. The department shall establish a sustainable community  
2 14 development initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to  
2 15 improve the sustainability of Iowa communities by promoting  
2 16 environmental justice, ensuring long-term economic growth, and  
2 17 fostering environmentally conscious growth and development.  
2 18 "Sustainable community development" includes but is not  
2 19 limited to encouraging development that improves or modifies  
2 20 existing infrastructure before developing new infrastructure

2 21 such as upgrading or repairing roads, electrical conduits, and  
2 22 sewers; reclaiming and redeveloping brownfield sites;  
2 23 repairing unused or underused urban property; revitalizing  
2 24 blighted areas; maximizing existing transportation resources;  
2 25 and encouraging mass transit. In establishing the initiative,  
2 26 the department shall:

2 27 a. Create a plan to ensure that all of the department's  
2 28 current community growth and development programs, efforts,  
2 29 and initiatives incorporate an environmentally conscious  
2 30 approach and policies that promote sustainability.

2 31 b. Cooperate with local governments in the promotion of  
2 32 sustainable growth and development by providing information,  
2 33 technical assistance, and financial incentives to communities  
2 34 pursuing sustainable growth.

2 35 c. Cooperate with other agencies, departments, and  
3 1 divisions within state government, including but not limited  
3 2 to the department of natural resources, the department of  
3 3 cultural affairs, and the department of transportation in  
3 4 order to develop a more comprehensive approach to sustainable  
3 5 development statewide.

3 6 d. Develop an internet site with information and resources  
3 7 educating the public about and promoting sustainable  
3 8 development.

3 9 e. Plan and host conferences to bring together sustainable  
3 10 development stakeholders and members of communities.

3 11 f. Provide technical and financial assistance for pilot  
3 12 projects promoting environmentally sensitive development and  
3 13 sustainable communities.

3 14 Sec. 2. Section 15G.111, subsection 1, Code Supplement  
3 15 2007, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:  
3 16 NEW PARAGRAPH. dd. The department may use up to five  
3 17 hundred thousand dollars of the moneys appropriated under this  
3 18 subsection for the administration of the sustainable community  
3 19 development initiative established pursuant to section 15.109,  
3 20 subsection 5.

3 21 EXPLANATION

3 22 This bill relates to the development of sustainable  
3 23 communities.

3 24 The bill directs the department of economic development to  
3 25 establish a sustainable community development initiative. As  
3 26 part of this initiative, the department is required to ensure  
3 27 that all of its current programs promote sustainability, to  
3 28 cooperate with local governments, to cooperate with other  
3 29 state government entities, to develop an internet site  
3 30 promoting sustainability, and to provide technical and  
3 31 financial assistance to pilot project communities promoting  
3 32 sustainable development.

3 33 The bill authorizes the department to expend annually up to  
3 34 \$500,000 from the grow Iowa values fund to fund the  
3 35 initiative.

4 1 LSB 5708XL 82

4 2 tw/rj/5.1