

# Senate Study Bill 1218

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON QUIRMBACH)

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

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning the appointment of members to local boards,  
2 commissions, committees, and councils.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 2238XC 83  
5 ec/rj/24

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 69.16D LOCAL APPOINTIVE BOARDS  
1 2 == MEMBERSHIP SELECTION.  
1 3 Opportunities to serve on all appointive boards,  
1 4 commissions, committees, and councils of a political  
1 5 subdivision of the state that are established by the Code  
1 6 shall be open to all members of the community on the basis of  
1 7 their qualifications and without bias or preference towards  
1 8 gender, race, religion, national origin, disability, sexual  
1 9 orientation, or any other demographic characteristic on which  
1 10 it is forbidden to discriminate under the law of this state.  
1 11 Political subdivisions shall utilize a fair and unbiased  
1 12 method of selecting the best qualified applicants for such  
1 13 appointments so that the appointments reflect a reasonable  
1 14 balance between genders and demographic characteristics and  
1 15 are broadly reflective of the populations of the communities  
1 16 they serve. Political subdivisions shall consciously and  
1 17 actively seek the participation of and solicit applications  
1 18 for appointment from all groups of the community so that  
1 19 appointments can be made on merit alone and without bias as to  
1 20 gender or other demographic characteristics.  
1 21 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 216A.61 GENDER BALANCE OF LOCAL  
1 22 BOARDS == REPORTING REQUIREMENT.  
1 23 The governing body of a county, city, or school board,  
1 24 shall, during the first regularly scheduled meeting of the  
1 25 body in 2010, and each third year thereafter, approve a  
1 26 written report including the total number of members and the  
1 27 number of women and men members as of January 1 of that year  
1 28 for each appointive board, commission, committee, or council  
1 29 of the applicable county, city, or school board that is  
1 30 established by the Code. Each county, city, and school board  
1 31 shall make copies of the report available during the meeting,  
1 32 shall publish the report with the minutes of that meeting, and  
1 33 shall file a copy of the report with the commission. The  
1 34 commission shall compile the information reported by each  
1 35 county, city, and school district, and make the compilation  
2 1 available to the public.

### EXPLANATION

2 2  
2 3 This bill concerns the membership of appointive boards,  
2 4 commissions, committees, and councils of political  
2 5 subdivisions of the state.  
2 6 New Code section 69.16D provides that appointment  
2 7 opportunities to local appointive boards established by the  
2 8 Code shall be open to all members of the community on the  
2 9 basis of their qualifications and without bias or preference  
2 10 toward gender, race, religion, national origin, disability,  
2 11 sexual orientation, or any other discriminatory demographic  
2 12 characteristic. The new Code section also provides that  
2 13 political subdivisions shall utilize a process of selecting  
2 14 the best qualified applicants for such appointments so that  
2 15 the appointments reflect a reasonable balance between genders  
2 16 and demographic compositions of the communities they serve.  
2 17 New Code section 216A.61 requires counties, cities, and  
2 18 school districts to approve a written report in 2010, and each

2 19 third year thereafter, listing the total number of members,  
2 20 and the number of men and women members as of that year, for  
2 21 each applicable appointive board of that county, city, or  
2 22 school district. The bill requires that copies of the report  
2 23 be made available at the meeting in which the report is  
2 24 approved, be included with the minutes of that meeting, and be  
2 25 filed with the commission on the status of women. The bill  
2 26 requires the commission to compile the information submitted  
2 27 and make the compilation available to the public.  
2 28 LSB 2238XC 83  
2 29 ec/rj/24