

**House File 2066 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2066

BY CHAMBERS

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act related to the establishment of a state welcome center.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. STATE WELCOME CENTER ESTABLISHMENT.

2 1. The economic development authority shall develop a  
3 plan by January 15, 2013, in accordance with the relevant and  
4 appropriate planning principles contained in section 15.272,  
5 for the establishment of a state welcome center in proximity  
6 to highway 60 and Hawkeye Point. In developing the plan, the  
7 authority may do but is not limited to doing the following:

8 a. Arrange for the state department of transportation to  
9 acquire title to land and buildings for use as and undertake  
10 construction of a state-owned welcome center. In acquiring  
11 property and constructing the welcome center, the state  
12 department of transportation may use any funds available to it,  
13 including but not limited to the RISE fund, matching funds from  
14 local units of government or organizations, the primary road  
15 fund, federal grants, and moneys specifically appropriated for  
16 these purposes.

17 b. Contract with other state agencies, local units of  
18 government, or private groups, organizations, or entities for  
19 the use of land, buildings, or facilities as a state welcome  
20 center or in connection with a state welcome center, whether  
21 or not the property is actually owned by the state. If a local  
22 match that is required for a welcome center is met by providing  
23 land, buildings, or facilities, the entity providing the  
24 local match shall enter into an agreement with the authority  
25 to either transfer title of the property to the state or to  
26 dedicate the use of the property under the conditions and  
27 period of time set by the authority.

28 2. The economic development authority shall transmit  
29 the plan developed under this section to the joint economic  
30 development appropriations subcommittee and the legislative  
31 services agency.

32 EXPLANATION

33 This bill relates to the establishment of a state welcome  
34 center. The bill requires the economic development authority  
35 (authority) to plan for the establishment of a welcome

1 center near Hawkeye Point and highway 60 in Osceola county in  
2 northwest Iowa by January 15, 2013. The authority must develop  
3 the plan in accordance with the planning principles contained  
4 in Code section 15.272.

5 The bill provides that in developing the plan the authority  
6 may arrange for the department of transportation (DOT) to  
7 acquire title to land and buildings. The DOT may use any funds  
8 available to it for the purpose of acquiring title to land and  
9 buildings for use as and construction of a state-owned welcome  
10 center.

11 The bill provides that the authority also may contract  
12 with other state agencies, local units of government, or  
13 private organizations, groups, or entities for the use of  
14 the land, buildings, or facilities as a state welcome center  
15 or in connection with a state welcome center, regardless of  
16 whether the property is owned by the state. The bill provides  
17 that an entity providing a local match, if a local match that  
18 is required for a welcome center is met by providing land,  
19 buildings, or facilities, shall enter into an agreement with  
20 the authority regarding the title of the property or the  
21 dedicated use of the property.

22 The bill requires the authority to transmit the plan  
23 developed to the joint economic development appropriations  
24 subcommittee and the legislative services agency.