

**House File 118 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 118

BY ISENHART and KOESTER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act creating an Iowa institute for public policy.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 2E.1 Iowa institute for public  
2 policy — board — executive director — funding.

3 1. The Iowa institute for public policy shall be established  
4 as a nonprofit corporation under chapter 504 and qualifying  
5 under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as  
6 an organization exempt from taxation. The institute shall  
7 provide policymakers with timely information, research, and  
8 recommendations to assist policymakers in this state in making  
9 informed judgments about important long-term issues facing the  
10 state and to improve the effectiveness of government in the  
11 state.

12 2. *a.* The board of directors of the Iowa institute for  
13 public policy shall consist of twelve members as follows:

14 (1) Two state representatives, one appointed by the speaker  
15 of the house of representatives and one by the minority leader  
16 of the house, and two state senators, one appointed by the  
17 majority leader of the senate and one by the minority leader  
18 of the senate.

19 (2) Two members appointed by the governor.

20 (3) One member appointed by the president of the university  
21 of northern Iowa.

22 (4) One member appointed by the president of the university  
23 of Iowa.

24 (5) One member appointed by the president of Iowa state  
25 university of science and technology.

26 (6) One member appointed by the Iowa association of  
27 independent colleges and universities.

28 (7) One member appointed by the Iowa association of  
29 community college presidents.

30 (8) The director of the legislative services agency.

31 *b.* One co-chairperson shall be a state representative  
32 and one co-chairperson shall be a state senator. The  
33 co-chairpersons shall be appointed by the board. Members of  
34 the board other than the director of the legislative services  
35 agency shall serve two-year terms from the date of their

1 appointment, and shall continue to serve until their successors  
2 have been appointed. A member shall not serve more than two  
3 consecutive terms. All members of the board serve at the  
4 pleasure of the respective appointing authority, if any.

5 *c.* The board of directors shall meet at least quarterly, or  
6 more frequently at the call of the co-chairpersons.

7 *d.* The board of directors shall adopt bylaws necessary for  
8 the conduct of the business of the institute consistent with  
9 this section.

10 3. The duties of the institute shall include but not be  
11 limited to the following:

12 *a.* Initiate, sponsor, conduct, and publish research useful  
13 to policymakers.

14 *b.* Organize conferences or other meetings on matters of  
15 common interest to policymakers, academic experts, and other  
16 stakeholders.

17 *c.* Conduct reviews and evaluations of state programs  
18 and policies for the purpose of enhancing their long-term  
19 effectiveness.

20 *d.* Provide technical and scientific assistance to  
21 policymakers in connection with long-term issues facing the  
22 state.

23 *e.* Strengthen the links between state government and Iowa's  
24 academic, educational, and research communities in the interest  
25 of more informed policymaking and more relevant academic  
26 research.

27 4. *a.* The board shall employ an executive director who  
28 shall serve as the chief executive officer for the institute.  
29 The executive director shall be responsible for all operations  
30 of the institute, including the hiring and supervision of  
31 staff which may be authorized by the board, contracting with  
32 university and other researchers, managing projects, and  
33 communicating with the public and other stakeholders, including  
34 the legislative council and legislative staff.

35 *b.* A person employed by the institute is a state employee

1 for purposes of the Iowa public employees' retirement system,  
2 state health and dental plans, other state employee benefits  
3 plans, and chapter 669. Chapters 8, 8A, and 20, and other  
4 provisions of law that relate to requirements or restrictions  
5 dealing with state personnel or state funds, do not apply to  
6 the institute or any employees of the board or the institute,  
7 except to the extent provided in this chapter.

8 5. The institute shall be funded by appropriations by the  
9 general assembly and from other public sources which may be  
10 approved by the board. The institute shall accept no private  
11 funding, except long-term funding commitments of three years or  
12 more from private foundations or nonprofit organizations solely  
13 for the purpose of supporting the institute's employment of  
14 students attending a postsecondary educational institution in  
15 Iowa, which funding may not be conditioned by the institute or  
16 the entity providing the funds to support any specific research  
17 project or any other program undertaken by the institute. The  
18 institute may employ such students directly or may support the  
19 employment of students by contract. The institute may impose  
20 registration fees on participants for conferences it organizes  
21 and may retain the proceeds of such registration fees.

22 Sec. 2. REPEAL. Section 7D.15, Code 2013, is repealed.

23

EXPLANATION

24 This bill provides for the establishment of the Iowa  
25 institute for public policy as a nonprofit corporation for  
26 the purpose of assisting policymakers in this state in making  
27 informed judgments about important long-term issues facing the  
28 state and to improve the effectiveness of government in the  
29 state.

30 The institute is governed by a 12-member board of  
31 directors. The membership of the board consists of two state  
32 representatives, two state senators, two members appointed  
33 by the governor, one member appointed by the president of  
34 the university of northern Iowa, one member appointed by the  
35 president of the university of Iowa, one member appointed

1 by the president of Iowa state university of science and  
2 technology, one member appointed by the Iowa association of  
3 independent colleges and universities, one member appointed by  
4 the Iowa association of community college presidents, and the  
5 director of the legislative services agency. The bill provides  
6 that the board shall appoint co-chairpersons of the board, one  
7 who is a state representative and one who is a state senator.  
8 The bill provides for meetings of the board and for adoption of  
9 bylaws for the board and the institute.

10 The bill provides that the board shall employ an executive  
11 director who shall be responsible for all operations of the  
12 institute, including the hiring and supervision of staff. The  
13 bill provides that employees of the institute or board shall  
14 be considered state employees for purposes of the Iowa public  
15 employees' retirement system, state health and dental plans,  
16 and other state employee benefits plans and the Iowa tort  
17 claims Act. The bill also provides that the institute may be  
18 funded from public and private sources.

19 Code section 7D.15, requiring the executive council to  
20 establish a public policy research foundation, is repealed.