

**Senate File 2162 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2162

BY PETERSEN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the chief technology officer to implement  
2 a confidential common database in conjunction with  
3 state agencies involved with administering or verifying  
4 eligibility for public benefits programs.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 8B.25 Public benefits data sharing.

2 1. For the purposes of this section, "*public benefit*  
3 *programs*" means programs that assist low-income individuals and  
4 families and include but are not limited to the elder Iowan  
5 support programs administered by the department on aging,  
6 meal and nutrition programs administered by the department of  
7 education, the child care, family investment, food assistance,  
8 and medical assistance programs administered by the department  
9 of human services, the housing programs administered by the  
10 Iowa finance authority, and the health and wellness programs  
11 administered by the department of public health.

12 2. The chief technology officer shall work with the  
13 department on aging, the departments of education, health,  
14 human services, and revenue, the Iowa finance authority, and  
15 other state agencies responsible for administering or verifying  
16 eligibility for public benefit programs to develop a common  
17 database for the programs. The purpose of the common database  
18 is to improve and reduce the costs of administering the public  
19 benefits and to enable the sharing of confidential information  
20 to assist applicants and recipients. The issues addressed  
21 in developing the common database shall include but are not  
22 limited to all of the following:

23 a. Maintaining the confidentiality of the personal  
24 information provided by applicants and recipients of the public  
25 benefits.

26 b. Enabling the capacity for data sharing between the  
27 agencies using the database.

28 c. Improving the ability of persons seeking public benefits  
29 to have access to the benefits for which they are eligible.

30 d. Enabling applicants for and recipients of public benefits  
31 programs to apply for the programs and access their own  
32 information relative to the programs through the internet and  
33 by use of a telephone mobile computer device.

34 3. The chief technology officer shall initially implement  
35 the common database with one or more pilot projects that

1 shall be expanded as the projects are perfected. The chief  
2 technology officer and each of the departments and agencies  
3 using the common database shall report annually by December  
4 15 to the governor and the general assembly concerning the  
5 status of the database, including but not limited to any  
6 administrative cost reductions realized and improvements made  
7 for the applicants for and recipients of each of the public  
8 benefit programs included in the database.

9

EXPLANATION

10           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
11           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

12       This bill requires the chief technology officer to implement  
13 a confidential common database in conjunction with other state  
14 agencies involved with administering public benefit programs.

15       The term "public benefit programs" is defined by the bill to  
16 mean programs that assist low-income individuals and families,  
17 including various programs specifically listed.

18       The purpose of the common database is to improve and reduce  
19 the costs of administering the public benefits and to enable  
20 the sharing of confidential information. Development of the  
21 database is required to address issues specified by the bill,  
22 including capacity to apply for and access public benefit  
23 programs and related information through the internet and by  
24 using a telephone mobile computer device.

25       Initially, the database is to be implemented with one or  
26 more pilot projects that are to be expanded as the projects  
27 are perfected. An annual report to the governor and general  
28 assembly is required.