

**Senate File 2280 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2280  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2162)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the chief information 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 information 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 mobile information technology device.

34 3. The chief information 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 information 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 4. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
10 the state agencies responsible for administering or verifying  
11 eligibility for public benefit programs shall provide  
12 individually identifiable information about applicants for and  
13 recipients of services from the public benefit programs for  
14 use in the common database required by this section. If it is  
15 definitely established that implementation of a provision of  
16 this section would cause any of the public benefit programs  
17 addressed by this section to be ineligible for federal  
18 financial participation, implementation of the provision shall  
19 be limited or restricted as necessary for the program to retain  
20 eligibility for federal financial participation.

21 5. The chief information officer shall adopt rules to  
22 implement this section.

23

#### EXPLANATION

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

26 This bill requires the state's chief information officer to  
27 implement a confidential common database in conjunction with  
28 other state agencies involved with administering public benefit  
29 programs.

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

33 The purpose of the common database is to improve and  
34 reduce the costs of administering the public benefits and to  
35 enable the sharing of confidential information. Development

1 of the database is required to address issues specified by  
2 the bill, including capacity to apply for and access public  
3 benefit programs and related information through the internet  
4 and by using a mobile information technology device. If  
5 implementation of a provision of the bill would cause a  
6 public benefit program to be ineligible for federal financial  
7 participation, implementation of the provision is to be limited  
8 to the extent necessary for the eligibility to be retained.

9 Initially, the database is to be implemented with one or  
10 more pilot projects that are to be expanded as the projects  
11 are perfected. An annual report to the governor and general  
12 assembly is required.