

**Senate File 420 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 420  
BY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
GROWTH

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 70)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring American products to be used for public  
2 improvements, providing a penalty, and including  
3 applicability provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 73.22 Title.

2 This division may be cited as the "*Iowa Buy American Act*".

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 73.23 Definitions.

4 1. "*Construction*" includes reconstruction, alteration,  
5 repair, improvement, and maintenance.

6 2. "*Governmental unit*" means the state, or any county, city,  
7 or other political subdivision or any department, division,  
8 board, or other agency of any of these entities.

9 3. "*Manufactured in the United States*" means:

10 a. For an iron or steel product, all the manufacturing of  
11 the iron or steel product, other than metallurgical processes  
12 involving the refinement of steel additives, took place in the  
13 United States.

14 b. For a manufactured good which is not an iron or steel  
15 product, all of the following:

16 (1) All the manufacturing processes for the manufactured  
17 good took place in the United States.

18 (2) All of the components of the manufactured good are  
19 of United States origin. A component shall be considered of  
20 United States origin if all of the component's manufacturing  
21 processes took place in the United States, regardless of the  
22 origin of its subcomponents.

23 4. "*Public improvement*" means any structure, building,  
24 highway, waterway, street, bridge, transit system, airport, or  
25 other betterment, work, or improvement, whether of a permanent  
26 or temporary nature and whether for governmental or proprietary  
27 use.

28 5. "*United States*" means the United States of America and  
29 includes all territory, continental or insular, subject to the  
30 jurisdiction of the United States.

31 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 73.24 Use of American products for  
32 public improvements required.

33 Each contract for the construction of a public improvement  
34 made by a governmental unit shall contain a provision requiring  
35 that the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used or supplied

1 in the performance of the contract or any subcontract thereto  
2 be manufactured in the United States.

3 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 73.25 Waiver.

4 1. Section 73.24 may be waived for a contract for the  
5 construction of a public improvement made by a governmental  
6 unit if a person with the necessary authority for the  
7 governmental unit finds any of the following:

8 a. Application of section 73.24 would be contrary to the  
9 public interest.

10 b. The products necessary for the public improvement are  
11 not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably  
12 available quantities and of a satisfactory quality.

13 c. Application of section 73.24 would increase the cost of  
14 the contract by more than five percent.

15 2. If a person with the necessary authority for a  
16 governmental unit determines that a waiver pursuant to this  
17 section may be appropriate, the person shall do all of the  
18 following before granting a waiver:

19 a. Prepare a detailed, written justification as to why  
20 the waiver is needed. The justification shall be published  
21 on the governmental unit's internet site and at least once in  
22 a newspaper of general circulation in any county where the  
23 public improvement will occur. The justification shall also  
24 be made available to any member of the public upon request.  
25 The justification shall include notice of the opportunity for  
26 public comment required by paragraph "b".

27 b. Provide an opportunity for public comment on the  
28 justification for a reasonable period of time not to exceed  
29 fifteen days.

30 c. Consider all comments received during the comment period  
31 in evaluating whether to waive section 73.24.

32 3. If a person with the necessary authority for a  
33 governmental unit, in consultation with the United States trade  
34 representative, determines all of the following regarding a  
35 foreign country, subsection 1 shall not apply to products



1 finds that application of the requirement would be contrary to  
2 the public interest, that the products necessary for the public  
3 improvement are not produced in the United States in sufficient  
4 and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory  
5 quality, or that the requirement would increase the cost of the  
6 contract by more than 5 percent.

7 The bill provides that before a person can grant a waiver of  
8 the requirement, the person must publish and make available a  
9 detailed, written justification as to why the waiver is needed.  
10 The justification is to include notice of an opportunity for  
11 public comment. The comment period is to be for a reasonable  
12 period of time not to exceed 15 days. The person must consider  
13 all comments received during the comment period in evaluating  
14 whether to grant a waiver. The bill limits waiver authority  
15 for foreign countries that violate the terms of certain trade  
16 agreements with the United States.

17 The bill provides that a person is ineligible to enter  
18 into any contract or subcontract with a governmental unit if  
19 a court or federal or state agency determines that the person  
20 intentionally represented that any product used in a public  
21 improvement was manufactured in the United States when the  
22 product was not manufactured in the United States or affixed  
23 a label bearing a "Made in America" inscription, or any  
24 inscription with the same meaning, to any product used in a  
25 public improvement when the product was not manufactured in the  
26 United States.

27 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
28 section 25B.3. The bill makes inapplicable Code section 25B.2,  
29 subsection 3, which would relieve a political subdivision from  
30 complying with a state mandate if funding for the cost of  
31 the state mandate is not provided or specified. Therefore,  
32 political subdivisions are required to comply with any state  
33 mandate included in the bill.

34 The bill applies to public improvement contracts entered  
35 into on or after July 1, 2013.