

House File 530 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 530
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 159)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to state mandates on counties, including
2 provisions related to county medical examiner fees and the
3 publication of county resolutions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 331.802, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Except as provided in section 218.64 or as otherwise
4 provided by law, for each preliminary investigation and the
5 preparation and submission of the required reports, the county
6 medical examiner shall receive from the county of ~~appointment~~
7 the decedent's residence a fee determined by the board plus
8 the examiner's actual expenses. The fee and expenses ~~paid~~
9 by shall be submitted by the county medical examiner as an
10 invoice to the county of appointment which shall be reimbursed
11 ~~to the county of appointment by the county of the person's~~
12 residence forward the county medical examiner's invoice to the
13 decedent's county of residence for payment. ~~However, if~~ If the
14 person's death is caused by a defendant for whom a judgment of
15 conviction and sentence is rendered under section 707.2, 707.3,
16 707.4, 707.5, or 707.6A, the county of the person's residence
17 may recover from the defendant the fee and expenses.

18 Sec. 2. Section 349.16, subsection 1, Code 2015, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 1. The proceedings of the board of supervisors, as furnished
21 by the county auditor, excluding from the publication of said
22 proceedings, its canvass of the various elections, as provided
23 by law; witness fees of witnesses before the grand jury and in
24 the district court in criminal cases.

25 Sec. 3. Section 349.18, subsection 3, Code 2015, is amended
26 to read as follows:

27 3. The county auditor shall furnish a copy of the
28 proceedings to be published, within one week following the
29 adjournment of the board. The county auditor shall include
30 either a summary of all resolutions or the complete text of
31 resolutions adopted by the board in the furnished copy of the
32 proceedings. As used in this subsection, "summary" means a
33 narrative description of the resolution setting forth the main
34 points of the resolution in a manner calculated to inform
35 the public in a clear and understandable manner the meaning

1 of the resolution and to provide the public with sufficient
2 notice of the policy stated or action to be taken, as resolved
3 by the board in the resolution. The narrative description
4 shall include the title of the resolution, an accurate and
5 intelligible synopsis of the essential elements of the
6 resolution, a statement that the description is a summary, the
7 location and the normal business hours of the office where the
8 full text of the resolution may be inspected, and the effective
9 date of the resolution. Legal descriptions of property
10 set forth in a resolution shall be described in full. The
11 narrative description shall be written in a clear and coherent
12 manner and shall, to the extent possible, avoid the use of
13 technical or legal terms not generally familiar to the public.
14 When necessary to use technical or legal terms not generally
15 familiar to the public, the narrative description shall include
16 definitions of those terms.

17 EXPLANATION

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

20 This bill relates to state mandates on counties, including
21 provisions related to county medical examiner fees and the
22 publication of county resolutions.

23 Relating to county medical examiner fees, the bill requires
24 that a county medical examiner's office receive a fee and
25 certain expenses for conducting a preliminary investigation of
26 a death affecting the public interest, as specified in current
27 law, from a decedent's county of residence. The bill requires
28 that the fee and expenses be submitted by the county medical
29 examiner to the county of appointment in an invoice, and that
30 the county of appointment shall forward that invoice to the
31 decedent's county of residence for payment.

32 Relating to the publication of county resolutions, current
33 law requires that all proceedings of each regular, adjourned,
34 or special meeting of a board of supervisors be published
35 immediately after the adjournment of the meeting and that the

H.F. 530

1 county auditor, serving as clerk to the board, furnish a copy
2 of the proceedings to the board for publication within one week
3 following the adjournment of the board. The bill requires that
4 the county auditor include either a summary of all resolutions
5 or the complete text of resolutions adopted by the board, for
6 the purposes of furnishing such proceedings for publication.