

**House Study Bill 159 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
STATE GOVERNMENT BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON VANDER LINDEN)

**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

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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.