

**House File 720 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 720  
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 171)

(COMPANION TO SF 252 BY  
COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the authority of counties and cities to  
2 regulate rental housing, and including effective date  
3 provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 331.304, Code 2021, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 13. A county shall not adopt or enforce  
4 an ordinance or regulation that prohibits an owner, lessor,  
5 sublessor, managing agent, or other person having the right  
6 to lease, sublease, or rent out a dwelling unit from refusing  
7 to lease or rent out the dwelling unit to a person because of  
8 the person's use of a federal housing choice voucher issued by  
9 the United States department of housing and urban development.  
10 Such an ordinance or regulation adopted prior to the effective  
11 date of this Act is void and unenforceable on and after the  
12 effective date of this Act. For purposes of this subsection,  
13 "*dwelling unit*" means the same as defined in section 562A.6.

14 Sec. 2. Section 364.3, Code 2021, is amended by adding the  
15 following new subsection:

16 NEW SUBSECTION. 13. A city shall not adopt or enforce  
17 an ordinance or regulation that prohibits an owner, lessor,  
18 sublessor, managing agent, or other person having the right  
19 to lease, sublease, or rent out a dwelling unit from refusing  
20 to lease or rent out the dwelling unit to a person because of  
21 the person's use of a federal housing choice voucher issued by  
22 the United States department of housing and urban development.  
23 Such an ordinance or regulation adopted prior to the effective  
24 date of this Act is void and unenforceable on and after the  
25 effective date of this Act. For purposes of this subsection,  
26 "*dwelling unit*" means the same as defined in section 562A.6.

27 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
28 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

29

EXPLANATION

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

32 This bill relates to the authority of counties and cities  
33 to regulate rental housing. The bill prohibits a county or  
34 city from adopting or enforcing an ordinance or regulation that  
35 prohibits a person who has the right to lease, sublease, or

H.F. 720

1 rent out a dwelling unit from refusing to lease or rent out  
2 the dwelling unit to a person because of the person's use of  
3 a federal housing choice voucher issued by the United States  
4 department of housing and urban development. Such an ordinance  
5 or regulation adopted prior to the effective date of the bill  
6 is void and unenforceable on and after the effective date of  
7 the bill. For purposes of the bill, "dwelling unit" means a  
8 structure or the part of a structure that is used as a home,  
9 residence, or sleeping place.